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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 requires each national forest to develop a forest plan and to amend or revise the plan when conditions significantly change. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Plans were approved in 1987 and must be revised following existing laws and regulations.

The Analysis of the Management (AMS) is a summary of historic and current trends on each forest. It incorporates monitoring and evaluation findings from Forest Plan implementation and information from current science and assessments. The AMS establishes the "need for change," serving as the foundation for Forest Plan revision.

Key Findings

The need for change is categorized into five revision topics that address significant management concerns and public issues. They are:

Access Management
Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystem Conditions
Terrestrial Ecosystem Conditions
Noxious Weed Management
Special Designations and Areas

Access Management – Two trends--increasing recreational use and evolving technology (e.g. more powerful off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles)--have combined to change the access management situation. Both Forests are experiencing increased conflicts between users. Conflicts are also increasing between motorized vehicles and watershed and wildlife values. Forest Plan revision provides an opportunity to review and modify access management direction to address these concerns.

Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystem Condition – New information and increased awareness of physical watershed condition and aquatic organisms indicate a need to strengthen Forest Plan direction to conserve and restore aquatic resources. State and Federal designations under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act have resulted in changes in the amounts, types, locations, and timing of a variety of uses, including the utilization of forest products. There is a need to review and change management directions to better reflect and meet commitments under the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

Terrestrial Ecosystem Condition – Fire exclusion and timber harvest have together changed vegetation composition, structure, and patterns. In addition, recent climatic variations have tended toward warmer and drier, with the past decade characterized by frequent droughts. These three factors have affected forest resiliency and wildlife habitat. Factors beyond the forest level have resulted in several wildlife and plant species being listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Fire use plans should be expanded to allow more use of fire and, at the same time, reduce firefighting costs and firefighter risk. Silvicultural prescriptions and yield tables should reflect the range of forest composition and structure that would result from ecosystem management that fully integrates objectives for all resources. Management indicator species or groups need to better indicate desired forest conditions. Direction for species recovery needs to be fully integrated into Forest Plans. Soil productivity should be maintained or restored.

Noxious Weed Management – The spread of noxious weeds has greatly accelerated across the rangelands and forestlands of both national forests. Cooperative weed management areas now exist. Improved Forest Plan direction is needed to develop cooperative strategies. Integrated weed management programs (IWM) that address prevention, education, control, and restoration need to be incorporated into Forest Plan direction.

Special Designations and Areas – Special areas (wilderness, roadless, culturally significant, etc.) are highly valued by the American public and Tribes. Protecting and maintaining these areas requires a review of past recommendations for additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and Research Natural Areas. Direction regarding management of roadless and other "special areas needs to be reviewed and updated.

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes why the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are revising their Forest Land and Resource Management Plans, summarizes the direction that will guide the revision process, and identifies the revision topics that address the need to revise the 1987 Forest Plans.

Clearwater/Nez Perce Forest Plan Revision Zone

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are working together to revise and update the Land and Resource Management Plans (commonly referred to as Forest Plans) for both national forests. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Revision Zone (hereafter referred to as the Clear/Nez Revision Zone) is located in north-central Idaho (See Figure 1). The two Forests have been placed in a "revision zone" with a single revision project team. There are several reasons for the creation of a revision zone:

The timing for revision for the two Forest Plans is similar.

The Forests share key issues, resources, customers, and interested publics.

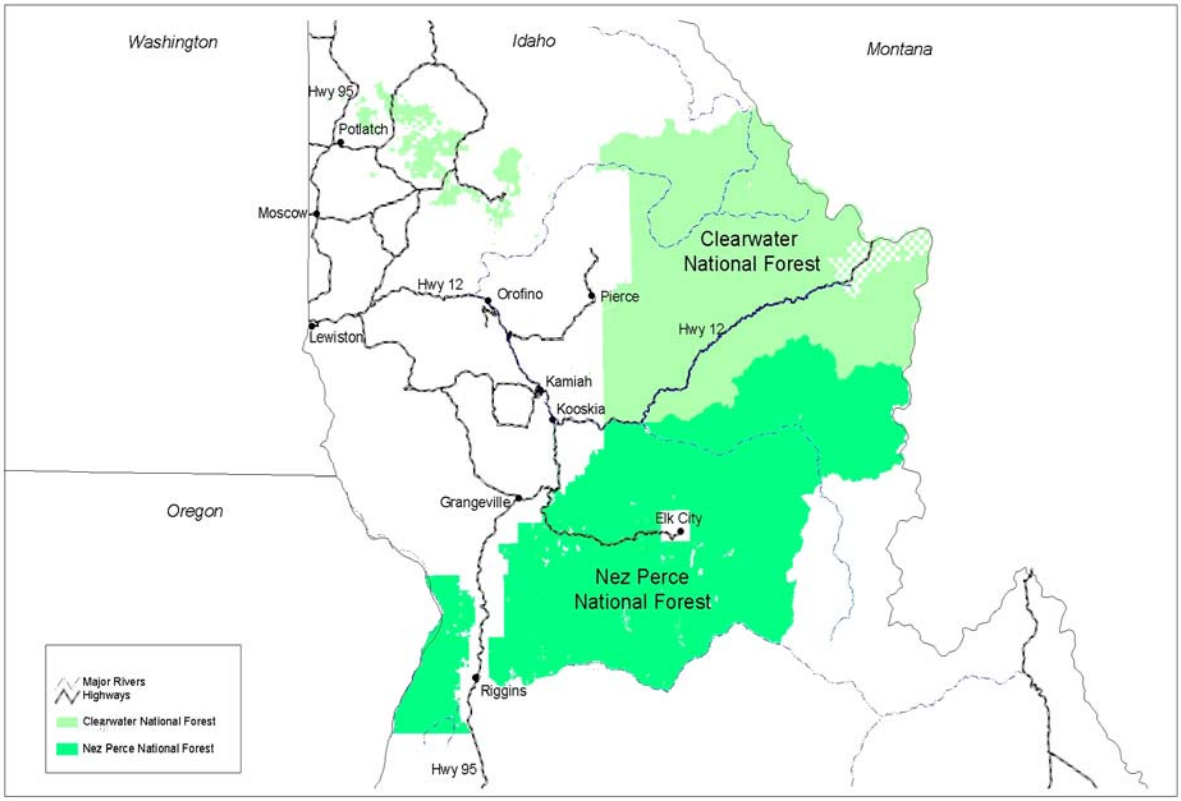
The Forests share tribal trust and treaty rights responsibilities.

The Forests need to consider management of ecosystems across administrative boundaries.

The creation of a revision zone provides opportunities to share personnel, services, budget, knowledge, and experience, thereby increasing the efficiency and quality of the revision effort.

The Clearwater National Forest (Clearwater NF) is responsible for the management of approximately 1.8 million acres and the Nez Perce National Forest (Nez Perce NF) is responsible for the management of approximately 2.2 million acres. The Clearwater River drains most of the acres in both Forests. Rugged mountain ranges, pristine rivers and streams, and extensive forested landscapes combine to create diverse ecosystems that provide spectacular recreation opportunities, significant fish and wildlife habitat and forest, minerals and range products.

Figure 1 – Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests



The forests have many land management issues in common. Examples include:

Ecological conditions, risks, and restoration opportunities;

Presence of "threatened" species – e.g. wolves, bull trout, steelhead, and salmon;

Recreation opportunities and access issues; and

Significant heritage resources, particularly related to use by the Nez Perce Tribe and the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery.

Purpose of Forest Plan Revision

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 requires each national forest to develop a forest plan and to update or revise when conditions significantly change. The Clearwater NF and Nez Perce NF Forest Plans were approved in 1987 and must be revised following the regulations as described in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 36 CFR 219, 1982 version). Forest plans provide programmatic direction for management of national forests. Included in forest plans are goals and objectives and management direction, but the plan does not identify site-specific projects. Key decisions as outlined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations to be made in the revision of the existing plans are:

Forest-wide multiple-use goals and objectives (36 CFR 219.11b),

Forest-wide management standards and guidelines (36 CFR 219.13-219.17),

Management area direction (36 CFR 219.11),

Designation of suitable timber land and allowable sale quantity (36 CFR 219.14-219.16),

Lands suitable for grazing and browsing (CFR 219.20),

Provision for outdoor recreation opportunities (CFR 219.21), and

Recommendations for additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System (CFR 219.17).

Forest Plans are similar to county strategic (or zoning) plans where areas are mapped out and allowable uses are associated with the mapped areas. The primary decisions in forest planning are the establishment of allowable uses in geographic areas called management areas (MAs). These management areas are assigned goals, objectives, and standards that describe what activities can occur in a given MA as well as any restrictions on allowable activities. Site-specific project decisions, for example where timber harvest units will be located or which roads will be closed or decommissioned, are not made during forest plan revision.

Furthermore, decisions in forest plans are constrained by existing laws, regulations and policy. The Endangered Species Act, the National Forest Management Act and the Clean Water Act are examples of laws that constrain the decision space relative to allowable uses and how they occur across the forests.

Analysis of the Management Situation

One of the first steps in the forest plan revision process is the development of an Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS). AMSs completed in 1984 provided information for the development of the existing Forest Plans. This AMS will look at changed conditions and new information since 1984 to determine Plan revision needs. The AMS is a summary of monitoring and evaluation findings, historic and current conditions and trends, and applicable information from current science and assessments. The information contained in the AMS will establish the need for revising Forest Plans and will assist in the development of a range of alternatives as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. It will also include a brief description of the implications of current management direction for each revision topic and provide a determination of the potential to resolve public issues and management concerns.

Direction Guiding Forest Plan Revision

***Planning Regulations**:* Direction for completing forest plan revisions and the contents of forest plans is found in 36 CFR 219, 1982 version. This direction is commonly referred to as "planning regulations" or the "planning rule". At this writing, the planning rule that will be used for this revision was completed in 1979 and amended in 1982. It guided the development of the 1987 Forest Plans. The Clear/Nez Forest Plan revision project will also be guided by the 1982 planning regulations until such time as new regulations are finalized. A new planning rule was issued in 2000. However, the Forest Service has determined that it cannot implement the provisions of the new rule. Therefore, the 2000 rule has been set aside. A proposal to revise the 2000 planning rule was issued for public comment in December 2002. It has not been issued as a final rule yet.

If a revised planning rule is finalized during the Clear/Nez revision process, the Forests will evaluate the planning direction and determine whether to continue under the 1982 rule or transition to the revised rule.

Resources Planning Act Assessment: The Resources Planning Act Assessment (RPA) provides a programmatic and general strategic course for the Forest Service to follow. The 2000 RPA Assessment, done by the Forest Service, presents long-term strategy for a period of time from 1994 to 2045. The RPA describes all Forest Service activities under its jurisdiction and identifies broad resource and program needs that respond to anticipated demands. It provides general guidance for forest, state assistance, and research planning. The following items illustrate the strategic direction of Forest Service programs and activities over the next 50-year planning horizon as set forth in the 2000 RPA:

Conservation of biological diversity,

Maintenance of productive capacity of forested and rangeland ecosystems,

Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality,

Maintenance of forest contributions to global carbon cycles, and

Maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socioeconomic benefits to meet the needs of society.

USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan: The USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan (2000) was prepared to address how the Forest Service will meet the goals of the RPA. This Strategic Plan establishes goals, outcomes, performance measures, and strategies, which apply to management of the national forest system (NFS) lands as well as other Forest Service mission areas. The Forest Service mission is "…to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." This mission is supported by four goals:

1. **Ecosystem Health**- Promote ecosystem health and conservation using a collaborative approach to sustain the nation's forests, grasslands, and watersheds.

2. **Multiple Benefits to People**- Provide a variety of uses, values, products, and services for present and future generations by managing within the capability of sustainable ecosystems.

3. **Scientific and Technical Assistance**- Develop and use the best scientific information available to deliver technical and community assistance and to support ecological, economic, and social sustainability.

4. **Effective Public Service**- Ensure the acquisition and use of an appropriate corporate infrastructure to enable the efficient delivery of a variety of uses.

Regional Guidance: The Clearwater NF and Nez Perce NF are an integral part of larger ecosystems. A number of regional and large geographic scale assessments and strategies help identify or maintain future public land management options, and set the context for the Clear/Nez planning efforts. The Forest Plan revision team will consider the findings from these larger analyses, such as Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) and Northern Region Overview.

Sustainability

Multiple-use is a legislated mandate (via the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act and NFMA), a guiding principle in the Forest Service and is consistent with the concept of sustainability. Sustainability is defined as satisfying present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and is widely recognized as the overarching objective of land and resource management (USDA Forest Service. 2000). Sustainability is composed of three interdependent parts: ecologic, social, and economic. National forest system lands are capable of contributing critical elements in all three components of sustainability.

Integrated Approach to Forest Plan Revision

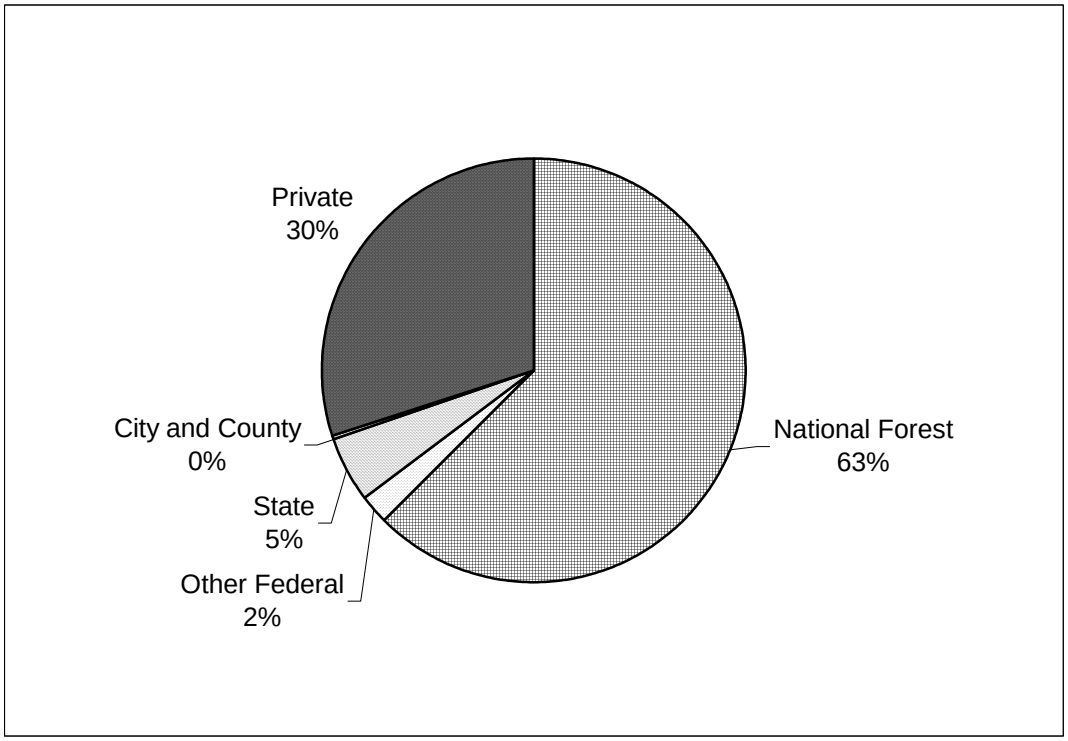
The current Forest Plans tend to promise everything to everyone. The application of Forest Plan standards and other laws, new listings of species under the Endangered Species Act, and site-specific analysis at the project level prevented achievement of planned outputs. The revised Plans need to change expectations from compartmentalized, functional resource management to an integrated approach that considers how all resources fit together and interact. This need for a philosophical shift in forest planning has been articulated nationwide in several reports such as the Committee of Scientists' Report "Sustaining the People's Lands," USDA, 1999, and the National Fire Plan directed by Congress in 2001.

While National Forests are important to all people of the United States, the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests are geographically located in closest proximity to Oregon,

Washington and Montana. Many residents from these states work or recreate on these lands.

In Idaho, a five-county region comprised of Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties is most closely associated with the two national forests. The Forest Service manages the majority of land in this 8,545,088-acre region.

Figure 2 – Land Ownership in Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties



Note: Cities and counties accounted for 16,038 acres or 0.2 percent of land ownership.

The population of the five-county region has grown by 10% over the past 20 years; however, not all counties have experienced growth. Two rural counties, Clearwater and Lewis, have actually seen population decreases. Idaho County, a third rural county experienced very modest growth. The two most urban counties, Latah and Nez Perce, are experiencing the most growth.

Table 1 - Population Trends in North-Central Idaho

County	1980 Census Population	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	Change 1980-2000	% Change 1980-2000
Clearwater	10,390	8,505	8,930	-1,460	-14%
Idaho	14,769	13,768	15,511	+742	+5%
Latah	28,749	30,617	34,935	+6,186	+22%
Lewis	4,118	3,516	3,747	-371	-9%
Nez Perce	33,220	33,754	37,410	+4,190	+13%
Regional Totals	91,246	90,160	100,533	+9,287	+10%

Population growth in the five counties is expected to continue over the next several decades. It is likely that the population will become older, more culturally diverse in the larger communities, and more affluent in nearby towns such as Lewiston, Moscow and larger metropolitan areas like Spokane and Missoula.

The general economy in the Columbia River Basin, with exceptions in some communities in the Clear/Nez planning zone, is expected to evolve to information-based technologies and service industries, away from forestry and wood products, with farming remaining a strong component. This does not mean forestry and wood products disappear but that these industries would no longer dominate (Quigley and Arbelbide, 1997d).

In the Columbia River Basin, economic growth will continue, with exceptions in some rural communities, and will be significantly influenced by population growth dependent on in-migration from other regions. Demographic changes may have significant impacts, influencing what society expects from the two national forests. New residents in some communities may be more interested in amenity values, such as wildlife viewing and recreation, than traditional commercial industries. Increased residential development adjacent to public lands may increase pressures to control fires and to modify some forest practices (Quigley and Arbelbide, 1997d).

Integrating ecological restoration and maintenance, species conservation, and social/economic concerns will not be easy. Revised Forest Plans should not appear to promise everything to everyone. The Forests will strive to accomplish integrated management plans by creating “place-based” management areas to which the public can better relate. Designated areas, such as wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, will retain their distinctive identities. Forest-wide and management area direction will integrate management strategy for ecological and human needs.

A social assessment is being prepared to provide more detailed information regarding the social and economic situation in the five-county area. It will be completed in early 2004.

Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments

The Nez Percre and Coeur d'Alene Tribes are sovereign nations with significant interests in how the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests are managed. The Tribes and government of the United States maintain a unique relationship requiring government-to-government coordination and consultation.

In accordance with federal legislation and agency policy, the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests strive to:

1. Maintain a governmental relationship with federally recognized tribal governments.
2. Implement programs and activities honoring Indian treaty rights.
3. Fulfill legally mandated trust responsibilities.
4. Administer programs and activities in a manner that addresses, and is sensitive to, traditional religious beliefs and practices.
5. Provide research, transfer technology, and technical assistance to tribal governments.

The people of the Nez Perce Tribe are closely tied to lands managed by both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The traditional homeland of the Nez Perce people once included 17 million acres in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. It encompassed both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests.

The Treaty of 1855 reserved 7.5 million acres of tribal use. It also preserved certain rights for the Nez Perce people, including fishing, hunting, and gathering on these lands. Article 3 of the Treaty states:

> *The exclusive right of taking fish in all streams where running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians: as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing, together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries, and pasturing their horses and cattle upon open and unclaimed land.*

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has sovereign authority on a reservation covering 345,000 acres. The reservation extends south to the Palouse country on the northernmost edge of lands administered by the Clearwater National Forest. The Tribe's original territory included almost five million acres and covered parts of the Palouse and North Fork Ranger Districts. As a consequence, the Tribe has an interest in the management of portions of the Clearwater National Forest.

The Forest Service has trust responsibility to these Tribes. Trust responsibility is the U.S. government's permanent legal obligation to exercise statutory and other legal authorities to protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights. The Supreme Court has found that treaties are superior to state laws, including state constitutions, and are accorded equal status with federal statutes. Treaty rights and trust responsibilities will be reflected in revision topics and management concerns throughout the revision process.

The Clear/Nez Forest Plan revision will be planned and implemented in ways that protect and respect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. The Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene Tribes will be involved throughout the planning process. Coordination and consultation will occur to ensure tribal information, needs, interests, and expectations are incorporated into revised Forest Plans.

Public Participation and Collaborative Planning

Public understanding and participation during the Forest Plan revision process is critical to successful Forest Plan revision. Effective collaboration with individuals, groups, agencies, and governments depends on the agency's ability to provide meaningful avenues for everyone to participate. The team will encourage participation from the early stages of the project and provide continuous opportunities for discussion throughout the revision effort. Gathering and analyzing public input must be balanced with the need to move forward and revise Plans in an efficient and timely manner.

The Forests will involve the public with the goal of gaining valuable information about the national forests, how and where people use them, and how people would like to see them managed. While some areas of agreement may emerge, there will not be a formal consensus-building process. The revision team anticipates many issues associated with Forest Plan revision will generate controversy and conflict. The public discussion that ensues will help the agency better understand issues and values. This information will help the Forest Service evaluate options and tradeoffs so informed management decisions can be made.

Potential to Resolve Public Issues and Management Concern

It will be difficult to revise goals, objectives, and management area direction for revision topics in a manner that will satisfy everyone. By working collaboratively with the public, Tribes, elected officials, and local, state and other federal agencies, the Forest Service can gain valuable information and insight. This can be used to craft creative alternatives that consider both natural disturbance patterns and local, regional and national concerns.

Benchmark Summary

A benchmark analysis for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests was completed in the 1980s as part of the original forest planning process. Each national forest completed a benchmark analysis to assess its capability to meet the forest's share of national objectives set under the Resource Planning Act. Although Forest Plans are not constrained by RPA assignments, each forest assessed its capability to meet these objectives. The 1982 planning regulations require benchmark analysis to help define the range of alternatives to be analyzed in forest plans. These benchmarks were not constrained by budget but needed to be consistent with the minimum management requirements required in the planning regulations (Section 219.27).

For the Clearwater National Forest the 1987 maximum timber benchmark was 326 million board feet annually (CLW Forest Plan EIS Vol. 1, Chapter 2, page 12) and on the Nez Perce National Forest it was 256 million board feet annually (NP Forest Plan, Chapter 6, page 12). These benchmarks may no longer be appropriate, as new inventories, computer models, and minimum management direction have changed the assumptions by which the benchmarks would be established. Further analysis will be conducted as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to redefine appropriate benchmarks.

The following conclusions are summarized from the 1982 AMS for the Clearwater NF, pages 50-54, and from the 1987 Nez Perce NF Forest Plan, Chapter 6, pages 2-27. Computer modeling projected increases in elk winter range on the Clearwater NF due to projected harvest levels. On the Nez Perce NF, both summer and winter range for elk was expected to increase due to project implementation. The Clearwater NF analysis for developed and dispersed recreation, range, and Research Natural Areas found that RPA objectives could be attained. Anadromous and cold-water fish number objectives would require more constraints on sediment production. The Nez Perce NF analysis found that RPA objectives would be met for anadromous and resident fish, for developed and dispersed recreation, for wildlife (elk), range, and minerals. Roads, trails, insects and disease (protection), and wilderness were also analyzed but there are no RPA objectives for these areas.

Identifying What Needs to Change

The two Forests have determined that there is "need" to revise the current Forest Plans. This is based on experience gained during implementation of the Plans over the past 15 years; review of past Monitoring Reports; evaluation of new science; changes in public values, needs, and demands; and changes in national direction and policy.

Each individual revision topic discussion in Chapter 2 of the AMS identifies conditions, trends and reasons for the need for change. There are three basic categories of change, or revision, that will be dealt with during Forest Plan revision. These categories are:

1. **Revision Topics and Management Concerns -** Revision topics are items of concern that through monitoring have been shown to require a change in allocation, intent or objective. It has been determined this needed change cannot be resolved through a policy change or through project-level NEPA analysis. They do not need a regional, statewide, basin-wide review or decision, and they do tier to or implement present law and regulation or policy. Management concerns are subparts of the broader revision topic that have been identified by the Forests.

2. **Corrections and Updates -** Corrections and updates will be completed throughout the existing Plans and carried over into the new revised Plans. They are not analyzed as part of the identified revision topics but are changes or edits to remaining parts of the existing Forest Plan. A couple of examples are updating goals, objectives and standards for campgrounds and administrative sites or editing the standards for management of the minerals and lands programs. Guidelines will most likely be dropped or, if needed, become a standard. The following areas will have management direction modified by corrections and updates:

    - Heritage Resources
    - Land and Special Uses
    - Scenery Management
    - Air Quality
    - Minerals
    - Soils

3. **Review Required by the 1982 Planning Regulations**

    - Timber Suitability and the Timber Resource
    - Wilderness Recommendations
    - Habitat to Support Fish and Wildlife Viability/Management Indicator Species
    - Grazing Suitability and Alternative Range Management Prescriptions
    - Recreation Suitability and Opportunities
    - Mineral Resource –active mines, outstanding/reserved rights, mineral occurrence, potential areas for development/withdrawal, access, and effects of renewable resource management direction on mineral resource activity
    - Water and Soil – water uses, existing facilities, water volumes, compliance to provide clean water, watershed condition, protection of floodplains and wetlands

- Cultural/Historic Resources – overview of data, inventory needs, identification of sites for Register of Historic Places, protection measures, maintenance of historic sites, interpretation
- Research Natural Areas (RNAs) – Identify potential RNAs.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers - review and recommend
- Management Areas and Management Prescriptions

CHAPTER 2 – REVISION TOPICS

Revision topics are broad categories of significant management concerns and public issues where resource conditions, technical knowledge, policy, and/or public perception have created a potential "need for change". The revision topics have been identified for the Clear/Nez revision zone through monitoring and evaluation, science assessments, and daily contact with the people who work in and use the nationc

The majority of forest system trails on both forests is located in roadless areas and in designated wilderness areas.

These road and trail facilities provide critical access for recreation uses, commercial activities, and forest management and protection activities.

Why is this a Revision Topic?

Access to NFS lands is one of the most controversial topics, both internally and externally, in forest management today. There are questions regarding the Forest's application of access policy in relation to tribal treaty rights. The access management strategies in 1987 Forest Plans need to be updated to address new information and changes in the public's attitudes concerning access. Because of the level of controversy, large increases in recreation demand, the potential for resource impacts, and emphasis on providing better management of recreation use, it is appropriate to address access and recreation as part of Forest Plan revision. Based on these changed conditions there is a need to better integrate social needs and resource management directions with access management.

Public dissatisfaction with current management direction and policies is apparent in the comments at public meetings, public comments on specific projects, information in local media, and correspondence with congressional staff. This dissatisfaction is evident on both sides of the issue. That is, there are groups that advocate increased access to national forest system lands, both in terms of where people can go and how they get there, and there are groups that want to see more restrictions on where people can go and how they get there.

In order to provide improved recreation opportunities for the public it is important to review and change the access management direction in the Forest Plans.

Summary of Management Concerns

Table 1 – Summary of Management Concerns Regarding Access Management

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
Distribution, Types, and Seasons of Use of Motorized and Non-motorized Access	All forest lands, roads and trails are open to motorized use unless designated closed by law or special order. (E.g. designated wildernesses are closed to motorized use as is the Elk Creek Recreation area.)	Increased recreation use New equipment technology Increasing user conflicts Conflicts with watershed and wildlife values

Historic and Existing Conditions

Recreation activities are an important use of the national forests. Since the 1980's, both motorized and non-motorized use of roads, trails, and general forest areas has increased dramatically (USDA, Northern Region Overview, 1998). Based on motorized vehicle sales as well as field observations by Forest Service personal, off-highway vehicle (OHV) and snowmobile use are the two motorized activities that have increased the most. More people are participating in non-motorized summer activities, such as hiking and horse uses, and winter uses like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. River use is on the rise as are the types of individual watercraft.

Tribes have interests for access across national forest lands that are not always consistent with existing policy. Questions remain regarding how treaty rights and trust responsibility conflicts may be resolved in relation to access policies.

Increased recreation demand means that sometimes users may be competing to use the same areas for different activities and different experiences. A reduction in the quality of the recreation experience may result when conflicts occurs between groups on trails, roads or rivers.

The Forest Service categorizes the forest landscape into recreation settings using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification system. This system is based on the established concept from research that people choose a specific setting for a recreation activity to realize a desired set of experiences. ROS offers a framework for understanding these relationships and interactions. The Spectrum has been divided into six major classes for Forest Service use:

Primitive (**P**) – wilderness

Semi-primitive Non-motorized (**SPNM**) – roadless areas with trails closed to motorized vehicles

Semi-primitive Motorized (**SPM**) – roads and trails open to motorized vehicles

Roaded Natural (**RN**) – motorized access provided for vehicles

Roaded Modified (**RM**) – part of roaded natural which has been heavily modified. Modification is generally more like rural except tht the social setting is simi-primitive motorized.

Rural (**R**) – motorized access provided for passenger vehicles

Urban (**U**) – motorized access provided, often on paved facilities

The Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs have been inventoried and mapped using the ROS system. Only primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized and motorized, and roaded natural classes exist on the two Forests. The following table summarizes the existing ROS inventory:

Table 2 – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Inventory In Acres (TO BE COMPLETED LATER)

Forest	ROS Classes (Acres)					
	Primitive (P) (Includes 259,165 Acres of Designated Wilderness)	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized **(SPNM)**	**Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)**	**Roaded Natural & Roaded Modified (RN & RM)**	**Rural (R)**	**Urban (U)**
Clearwater	413,855	517,130	15,952	881,585	0	0
Nez Perce					0	0

Approximately 1,126,000 acres of the 4,000,000-acre Clear/Nez planning zone is designated wilderness and closed to motorized travel and equipment. Exceptions are provided at some airfields and in emergency situations.

There is little direction in the current Forest Plans to address the seasonality of recreation use and its appropriate spatial (geographic) distribution. Another important component of this revision topic is the miles of roads and trails available for motorized and non-motorized public access. Some roads and trails are closed yearlong and some have seasonal closures. The following is a summary of the miles of roads and trails open and closed to motorized public use.

Table 3 – Roads and Trails Available for Public Use

Access Management Direction								
Roads (Miles)					Trails (Miles)			
Forest	Open Yearlong to Motorized Use	Open Seasonally to Motorized Use	Closed Yearlong to Motorized Use	Total Road Miles	Open to Motorized Use	Closed to Motorized Use (Non-wilderness)	Closed (Designated Wilderness)	Total Trail Miles
Clearwater NF*	1902 (43%)	866 (20%)	1666 (38%)	4434	880 (55%)	385 (24%)	335 (21%)	1600
Nez Perce NF**	1005 (26%)	1522 (39%)	1329 (35%)	3856	954 (33%)	525 (18%)	1427 (49%)	2906
Zone Totals	2907	2388	2995	**8290**	1834	910	1762	**4506**

* Clearwater NF Travel Guide, 2003 Revision
**Totals from Nez Perce NF road/trail database

Over approximately the past ten years, there has been an increase in unplanned, user created motorized trails on both national forests. In some areas use of these unplanned trails has caused resource damage to meadows and wet areas, and impacted water quality

and fish habitat. In some situations conflict has arisen between non-motorized users and motorized users where user-built trails have been created.

Technological changes in recreation equipment, such as OHVs, snowmobiles, snowshoes, and cross-country skis, have made it possible for visitors to travel to previously inaccessible areas. In some areas the increase in use has created both resource and social problems where none existed before. For example, user-created trails may impact rare plant communities on open ridges and severely impact wet meadows. At the time of forest planning in the 1980's, many of these areas were thought to be inaccessible and to have very little use or potential for recreation use.

The presence and use of OHVs and snowmobiles have created conflicts between users seeking quiet and solitude away from the more developed parts of the forests. In the fall, conflicts may arise between hunters who hike and those who use motorized machines to access areas to hunt. Use of snowmobiles is disturbing to some skiers seeking solitude and quiet in backcountry areas in the winter.

Unplanned and unmanaged uses evolve as the population increases and technology improves recreation equipment. In some dispersed areas on the two Forests, overuse and resource impacts continue due to lack of proper facilities, law enforcement and transportation systems. Various groups continue to advocate their interests and controversy is likely to continue. Expectations for some dispersed recreation users are not met.

A few of the significant changes that have occurred are:

Motorized and non-motorized methods of travel have diversified and use has increased. Lewiston, Moscow, the Palouse and Camas Prairies, the Clearwater River corridor, and the Spokane and Missoula metropolitan areas have seen a steady and sometimes rapid rise in population. This population growth has resulted in an increase in numbers and types of users on national forest lands, and an increased interest in access management.

Motorized vehicles, such as snowmobiles and OHVs, can now access areas previously thought inaccessible.

High-density road systems are no longer a critical factor for timber harvest activities due to changes in logging system technology and feasibility.

User-created motorized vehicle travel ways in some locations are causing unacceptable resource impacts or conflicts with other Forest visitors.

Changes in Forest road and trail maintenance budgets have limited the agency's ability to adequately maintain the existing road and trail systems.

Motorized vehicle use on a significant number of roads has been restricted to meet wildlife or fish habitat needs.

Current Forest Plan Direction

On both forests the general rule for access is that areas are open to motorized use unless designated closed. This includes roads, trails, and the general forest landscape. Direction in current plans specifies that roads and trails be managed to meet legal requirements. Existing budgets are inadequate to complete needed annual and deferred maintenance on roads and trails. Decommissioning of roads as part of watershed restoration continues to be a priority. Wildlife security is maintained through the use of road restrictions and yearlong closures. Site-specific Forest plan amendments and/or Forest Supervisor's closure orders are required to deal with travel management and access.

What Needs to Change?

What are the types, amounts, seasons of use and distribution of motorized and non-motorized opportunities needed to allow sustainable public and tribal access and at the same time protect, conserve and restore forest resources?

The 1987 Forest Plans do not provide adequate or clear direction to address the changes in access demands by the public, the changes in recreation equipment technology, and new management policies that have been implemented over the last fifteen years.

Forest Plan Direction

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Plans are not consistent in their approach to access and travel management. The linkage between forest-wide goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, management area direction, desired ROS classification and travel planning in the individual Plans is weak or nonexistent. Based on changed conditions, there is a need to better integrate social concerns and resource management direction for access management.

Monitoring Plan

Revise the Monitoring Plan to measure success in meeting objectives.

2. Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystem Conditions

Introduction

The Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest planning zone is located in the lower Salmon and Clearwater River basins. Clean water is a critical resource with over 8,800 miles of streams and 2,990 acres of lakes (USGS 1999) supporting high value recreation, municipal water, and habitat for unique and diverse populations of fish and wildlife. The variety of water uses and increased demand will affect how the Forests manage watershed conditions that influence water quality and quantity for a variety of beneficial uses.

Why is this a Revision Topic?

There are three reasons to consider revision of watershed and aquatic species direction within the 1987 Forest Plans:

1) increased interest and focus on watershed and aquatic ecosystem restoration, including tribal resource and cultural needs in relation to agency trust responsibilities;

2) new information about and approaches to aquatic species conservation;

3) changes in the amount, type, location and timing of forest product removal as a result of watershed and aquatic ecosystem conservation and restoration emphasis and activities.

Forest Plan monitoring and survey results have indicated varied success at meeting water quality and fish habitat objectives. Generally, monitoring of stream channel conditions, sediment levels, water temperature, and fish numbers suggests some improvements in watershed and aquatic habitat conditions (USDA Forest Service 1988-2002). Not described in Monitoring Reports are the causes of these changes: the contribution of local climate change (i.e. drought and increased and above-normal temperatures), cumulative effects of past land management, and effects of historic large-scale disturbances. Aquatic ecosystems respond to both natural disturbances (and lack of disturbances) and land management actions (Fausch et al. 2002). Although both Forests have made substantial progress in terrestrial and aquatic restoration, Forest Plan objectives could be better described by including spatial and temporal variability, and clearly displaying the long-term conservation goals.

Findings from landscape-scale science assessments at the river basin, subbasin, and watershed scales brought to light new information regarding aquatic ecosystem conditions across the basin. At the basin scale, the Interior Columbia River Basin Science Assessment team demonstrated that native aquatic species are at risk (Quigley et al. 1997c). This Science Assessment team also developed a quantitative assessment framework land managers could use in evaluating risks between land management alternatives (Rieman et al. 2000). Subbasin level assessments further defined risks to species, provided more detailed current and historical condition descriptions, and

identified current conservation and restoration opportunities (USDA Forest Service 1998, 2001; Ecovista et al. 2003). Watershed assessments applied the findings of the two broad-scale efforts with additional detailed landscape characterization to determine the highest priority projects to accomplish the conservation or restoration objectives (USDA Forest Service 1997, 1998). Taken together, the results of these assessments provide information to consider when revising management area objectives to better meet the conservation and restoration goals at various spatial and temporal scales.

Actions taken on programs and projects to ensure consistency with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have resulted in changes in the amount, type, location, and timing of forest products outputs since the 1987 Forest Plans were completed. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plans were amended in 1995 to incorporate riparian and stream protections to halt watershed degradation and begin recovery of degraded aquatic ecosystems (USDA Forest Service 1995a,b). This change in Forest Plan management direction reduced timber harvest and road construction potential relative to the 1987 estimated levels. The 1995 Forest Plan amendments, referred to as PACFISH and INFISH, were interim direction to remain in effect until forest plans were amended or revised.

Summary of Management Conc13002 0 0 13013.028257642500 322.73999 Tmerns( )T3002 0 0

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
Sensitive Species Habitat Management	Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, and westslope cut-throat trout were the sensitive species evaluated.	Regional Forester and State sensitive species lists include species not evaluated in current Plans.
Management Indicator Species	Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and cutthroat trout are current indicators. These species are indicators of only cold-water stream habitats.	Increased awareness of other native aquatic species (fish, amphibians, invertebrates) that could be indicators of a broader range of aquatic habitat and watershed conditions exists.

Historic and Existing Conditions

Historic watershed conditions span the full range of conditions, from highly disturbed, to highly stable. The primary assumption is that the landscape is constantly changing, either by natural or human actions, or both. How we interpret watershed condition is based upon desired water quality, water yield, and fish and wildlife habitat elements. The resulting existing and historic description was based upon condition of desired watershed elements considering the natural range of variation and human modifications to the landscape at the present time. Tribes have both historic and current interests. The condition of aquatic resources and their management has significant implications to their cultural resource values and needs.

Recognizing there is a range of 'natural' conditions in which watersheds function, the question becomes: "How do human activities influence natural watershed processes?" Large natural wildfires, floods, and debris torrents interact with human-caused disturbances such as timber harvest areas, roads, and buildings to either accentuate or lessen the intensity and duration of natural disturbance (Lee et al. 1997). To describe this interaction, Table 5 displays the inherent natural watershed sensitivity and past land management disturbance. Subwatershed sensitivity was estimated from geology, slope steepness, and landform - physical features that are generally the most important indicator of soil stability and do not change on less than a geologic time scale. The amount of soil erosion within a watershed from ground disturbance (both natural and human caused) would be expected to vary based upon the degree of watershed sensitivity. Subwatershed disturbance was estimated from road density. Roads were selected as the primary indicator of disturbance and watershed condition because roads tend to have the longest lasting impact and are a common feature associated with most forest management activities (USDA Forest Service Roads Analysis Reports 2003). Cumulative frequency analysis was used to categorize sensitivity and disturbance data into low, moderate, high, or very high ratings (Table 6). Although this assessment provides a snapshot of current watershed conditions, it does not provide the historic or natural context to determine where existing conditions fall within the range of historic natural variation.

Table 5 - Subwatershed Ratings

Forest	Subwatershed Sensitivity (No.)				Subwatershed Disturbance (No.)			
	Very High	High	Mod.	Low	Very High	High	Mod.	Low
Clearwater	7	30	38	31	27	12	19	47

Spring/summer and fall chinook salmon, listed as "threatened" species under the ESA, are present in the Snake and Salmon Rivers. Fall chinook (threatened) are present in the main river below the confluence of Lolo Creek. Clearwater River spring/summer chinook salmon were not listed under the ESA because the Lewiston dam eliminated the native run (Waples et al. 1991, Mathews and Waples 1991)[1]. Upon removal of the dam, chinook salmon were reintroduced and a naturalized run was established. Chinook salmon are not present in the North Fork Clearwater River above Dworshak Dam. It is believed that large numbers of spring and fall chinook salmon historically occupied all the main tributaries of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers within the two national forests (Ecovista et al. 2003).

Steelhead trout, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout distribution in streams on the two Forests is similar to the historic distribution, with the exception that ocean-going steelhead trout no longer exist in the North Fork Clearwater River upstream of the Dworshak Dam. Although present in much of their historic range, it is believed that the abundance and resiliency of these three trout species has been significantly reduced from historic conditions as a result of habitat degradation, introduced species, harvest, and migration barriers (Lee et al. 1997) (Table 6). Connectivity between populations within the planning zone remains intact, with exceptions such as road crossings where partial or complete barriers may prevent upstream migration. Connectivity between populations and subpopulations is an important consideration in phenotypic and genetic diversity.

Other aquatic species of special interest on the two forests include interior redband trout, Pacific lamprey, coho salmon, kokanee, mountain whitefish, Northern pikeminnow, Coeur d'Alene salamander, spotted frog, and Northern leopard frog. Limited available distribution and status data prevents detailed summary in this AMS.

Table 6 – Subwatershed Fish Populations Status Ratings*

Fish Species	Population Status Ratings (Count of Subwatersheds)					
	Present Strong	**Present Depressed**	**Historically Absent**	**Extirpated**	**Present, Status Unknown**	**Presence Unknown**
Steelhead Trout	15	131	21	48	3	3
Chinook Salmon	0	114	41	51	4	12
Bull Trout	7	138	16	0	5	55
Westslope Cutthroat	99	74	9	1	22	16

* Data compiled by Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest biologists using definitions adapted from Lee et al (1991).

[1] April 22, 1992 Federal Register, Final Rule, Vol. 57. 14653-14663.

Current Forest Plan Direction

Direction in the 1987 Forest Plans, as amended by PACFISH and INFISH, incorporates an aquatic conservation strategy that reduces the risks to aquatic habitats from ongoing and new forest management activities. Under existing Forest Plans, both Forests have been actively pursuing restoration work on several key watersheds to meet Forest goals and objectives. Examples of these activities are the cooperative efforts with Nez Perce Tribe to complete stream crossing reconstruction to provide fish passage, road drainage maintenance to redirect potential sediment away from streams, and obliteration of roads no longer needed. Effects of past management activities continue to negatively influence some watershed and stream habitat conditions. Continuing with existing direction would produce a slow improving trend for some watersheds, while others would remain in their current degraded condition. Viability risk to some sub-populations of fish would remain high.

What Needs to Change?

Management Indicator Species

Re-evaluate current management indicator species.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Management

Recognize the range of natural habitat variability, and provide management flexibility to address short and long term species recovery objectives.

Water Quality, Quantity, and Watershed Conditions

Integrate resource direction with landscape/watershed restoration objectives.

Sensitive Species Habitat Management

Revise goals and objectives to be consistent between forests, and update the aquatic species conservation strategy to be consistent with other resource objectives.

Monitoring Plan

Revise the Monitoring Plan to measure success in meeting objectives.

3. Terrestrial Ecosystem Conditions

The Clearwater/Nez Perce Zone is within two ecological provinces as delineated by Bailey (1994). They are the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest Steppe – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow Province, (north of the Middle Fork Clearwater and Lochsa

- **Wildlife**: Common bird species include eagles, hawks, owls, grouse, chickadees, nuthatches, thrushes, flycatchers, and jays. Species with narrow habitat requirements include flammulated and boreal owl, Lewis' woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, Townsend's solitaire, and Nashville and yellow-rumped warblers. Several species nearing the edge of their ranges are mountain quail, spruce grouse, chestnut-backed chickadee, red-eyed vireo, Townsend's warbler, and American redstart. Typical herbivores and carnivores include white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, black bear, gray wolf, bobcat, and cougar. Common smaller herbivores include the snowshoe hare, red squirrel, and the northern flying squirrel. Rare species associated with this Section include mountain quail, white-headed woodpecker, lynx, fisher, wolverine, and harlequin duck. Reptiles and amphibians typical of this Section include the spotted frog, Pacific tree frog, western toad, long-toed salamander, Pacific giant salamander, western skink, garter snakes, and rattlesnakes.

Bitterroot Mountains – Section M333D

- **Climate**: Maritime-influenced, cool, moist temperate with relatively mild winters and dry summers. Winters can be severe, with average temperatures from below 0 degrees F in the winter to above 100 degrees in the summer. Lower elevation river valleys have more moderate winter temperatures.
- **Vegetation, Geology, and Landform**: Common tree species include grand fir, western redcedar, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, western hemlock, and western white pine. Geology is mostly Precambrian metasedimentary rocks of the Belt Supergroup, borderzone metamorphics, and Idaho batholith. There are steep, dissected mountains, some with sharp crests and narrow valleys. Rare or unusual plant species include Pacific dogwood, *Dasynotus daubenmirei* (Dasynotus), deer fern, and clustered ladyslipper.
- **Wildlife**: Common bird species include eagles, hawks, owls, grouse, chickadees, nuthatches, thrushes, flycatchers, and jays. White-headed woodpeckers reach the northern edge of their range in this Section. Typical herbivores and carnivores include white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, black bear, marten, gray wolf, bobcat, and cougar. Smaller common herbivores include the snowshoe hare, red squirrel, and the northern flying squirrel. Rare species include the fisher, wolverine, harlequin ducks, and Coeur d' Alene salamander. Typical reptiles and amphibians are the spotted frog, Pacific treefrog, western toad, long-toed salamander, Pacific giant salamander, garter snakes, and rattlesnakes.

Palouse Prairie – Section 331A

- **Climate**: Precipitation ranges from 10 to 30 in (250 to 760 mm), evenly distributed throughout fall, winter, and spring. Winter precipitation is mostly snow; summers are relatively dry. Climate is warm-temperate with a maritime influence. Temperature averages 45 to 54^{o} F. The growing season lasts 100 to 170 days.

- **Vegetation, Geology, and Landform**: Grasslands and meadow-steppe vegetation dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue are the typical vegetation of the Palouse. Ponderosa pine woodlands and forests form the lower timberline in the eastern portion of the Section on hills and low mountains. Common tree species include grand fir, western redcedar, Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, western hemlock, and western white pine. Geology includes Tertiary basalt with some Paleozoic granitic and metasedimentary outcrops in breaklands. Landforms are moderately to strongly dissected loess-covered basalt plains, hills with large steptoes, undulating plateaus, and some river breaklands. Mountains occur in the southeast part of the Section. Rare or unusual plant species include *Calochortus nitidus* (broad-fruit mariposa).
- **Wildlife**: Birds are typical of grasslands with intermittent riparian systems and pine hills. Grassland species include American kestrel, upland sandpiper, western kingbird, horned lark, black-billed magpie, western meadowlark, and savanna sparrow. Riparian system species include Lewis' woodpecker, gray catbird, western bluebird, orange-crowned warbler, northern oriole, black-headed grosbeak, and lazuli bunting. Birds that reach or nearly reach the extent of their range include mountain quail, barn owl, white-headed woodpecker, eastern kingbird, and American redstart. The bald eagle, an endangered species, also occurs around larger water bodies. Typical herbivores and carnivores include whitetail deer, mule deer, and bobcat. Smaller common herbivores include the blacktail jackrabbit and Washington ground squirrel. Rare species include the whitetail jackrabbit. Reptiles and amphibians typical of this Section are the bullfrog (an undesirable exotic species), painted turtle, western fence lizard, and the northern Pacific rattlesnake.

Section M332G – Blue Mountains

- **Climate**: Precipitation averages 9 to 18 inches in the valleys and 17 to 100 inches in the mountains. Temperature ranges from 28 to 52^{o} F. The growing season ranges from less than 30 to 130 days.
- **Vegetation, Geology, and Landform**: Forest vegetation types are dominantly grand fir -Douglas-fir, followed by western ponderosa pine forests. High elevation forests are Engelmann spruce- subalpine fir and whitebark pine. Great basin sagebrush and juniper steppe woodland are interspersed on relatively dry, mesic sites. Wheatgrass-bluegrass occurs on mesic-xeric soils in canyons and south slopes. Alpine meadows and barrens occupy the highest elevations. Geology is composed of metamorphic and volcanic island arc sequences, as well as Late Mesozoic plutons. Portions have a thin veneer of glacial debris. Landforms are moderately dissected mountains dominated by glacial and fluvial erosion processes.
- **Wildlife**: The principal mammals are Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, black bear, cougar, bobcat, and coyote. Elk and deer populations have fluctuated widely since settlement due to changes in vegetative cover. Several furbearers are common, including beaver, pine marten, raccoon, and fisher; they occur in a

variety of habitats. A wide variety of birds occupy various habitats. Hawks, golden eagle, chukar, owls, and a variety of songbirds inhabit cliffs and talus slopes. A variety of cavity nesters, including pileated woodpecker, whiteheaded woodpecker, nuthatches, chickadees, bluebirds, and others, are dispersed throughout the Section. Reptiles and amphibians typical of this Section include the spotted frog, Pacific tree frog, western toad, long-toed salamander, Pacific giant salamander, western skink, garter snakes, and rattlesnakes.

Why is this is a Revision Topic?

The scientific assessm

Table 7 – Summary of Management Concerns Regarding Terrestrial Ecosystem Condition

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
Fire Risk and Fire Management Direction	The Clearwater and Nez Perce Plans allow broad use of planned ignitions to treat fuels and meet management area direction, with some limitations.	Terminology associated with wildland fires has changed. There may be more opportunities to use unplanned ignitions to meet management objectives than are currently allowed in either Forest Plan.
Threatened and Endangered Terrestrial Species Recovery and Sensitive Species Management	Current Forest Plans address bald eagle, peregrine falcon, gray wolf, and grizzly bear as "threatened and endangered" species.	The peregrine falcon has been de-listed. The gray wolf has been re-introduced. The Canada lynx (mammal), MacFarlane's four-o'clock, Spalding's catchfly, water howellia, and Ute's ladies tress (plants) have been listed. There are recovery plans for listed species that differ from the original Forest Plan direction. Lists of sensitive wildlife and plant species have changed.
Forest Composition and Structure	Both Forest Plans describe an increased acreage of early seral forest by the end of the first decade.	Timber harvest and prescribed burning levels that would contribute to this desired increase in early seral forest have not occurred. Forest Plan monitoring indicates that forested ecosystems are often in two-storied or continuous canopy structures, as opposed to historic conditions.
Soil Productivity	Both plans limit soil disturbance to protect soil productivity.	Monitoring of the current Forest Plans has found that mechanical treatments (many from before Forest Plan implementation) have reduced productivity on many acres.

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
Management Indicator Species	Each forest plan identifies a variety of species as Management Indicator Species.	Forest Plan implementation and monitoring have shown that the current Management Indicator Species may not be the best choices to measure forest change due to management.
Timber Production and Allowable Sale Quantity	Current plans permit up to 173 MMBF harvest annually on the Clearwater NF, and up to 138 MMBF annually on the Nez Perce NF. Yield tables featured single age class management.	Fish species have been listed under the Endangered Species Act and the silvicultural prescriptions used have been different than those assumed in the yield tables. Over 60,000 acres of land in the suitable timber base have burned on the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests since 2000.

Historic and Existing Conditions – Fire Risk and Fire Management Direction

Change is continual and unpredictable. Change is perpetuated not only by plant responses to climate, but also by disturbances that accompany climatic change. Fire and disease often follow drought. Understanding the history and probable consequences of these disturbances gives land managers potent tools for selecting ecologica socially acceptable alternatives for influencing the course of changing ecosystems.

Paleobotany studies done for the Interior Columbia River Basin Assessment document both an extensive fire history since the glaciers retreated, as well as changes in vegetation composition (USDA FS, 1994). Climate has fluctuated from cool and moist to warm and dry, as indicated by the vegetation composition over the centuries. The heaviest carbon deposits, indicative of frequent, high-severity fires, occur in the past 1000 years. Fire behavior - low intensity or stand replacing - was very responsive to climate. Weather over the past decade has tended to be warmer and drier than in the preceding decades.

Fire suppression has been relatively successful since about 1935. In recent however, the number of fires and fire size has been increasing again throughout the west (Keane and others, 2002). This pattern is evident on the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. Fuel accumulation in short, moderate, and long fire interval groups has occurred, with the potential result being more acres burning at higher fire intensities. The historic pattern of disturbance has also been altered, particularly in long fire interval areas. Fuel accumulations coupled with warmer, drier weather in the past decade, has resulted in the current trend toward high intensity fires. This is a departure from the historic pattern where a variety of fire intensities occurred on the landscape.

Forest Service policy has encouraged use of natural fires where resource objectives are compatible, mostly in designated wilderness areas, with some use in roadless areas adjacent to wilderness. There has been increasing recognition that 60 to70 years of fire exclusion, coupled with climatic conditions favorable to tree and shrub growth, has caused fuel loads to increase, and resulted in fuel arrangements conducive to severe fires (ladder fuels). Even with increased use of natural fires, fewer acres are being burned today from both planned and unplanned ignitions than burned historically (before fire exclusion policies began). Common recommendations from subbasin assessments and watershed analyses completed to date are for increased prescribed fire and/or natural fire in most ecosystems. The need is especially great where short fire return intervals were the norm historically.

Fire Management Plans have been completed for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, the Gospel-Hump Wilderness, the Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness, and the Clearwater Fire Management Area.

Historic and Existing Conditions – Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery and Sensitive Species Management

Historically, gray wolves, grizzly bears, Canada lynx, bald eagles, and some of the current Region One listed “sensitive” species 6.8109e24 sp12 180 02 309.96002 4335 T5 T98 Ttwo forest.76

Historic and Existing Conditions – Composition and Structure

Pre-fire exclusion conditions

How to describe historic vegetation conditions has been the subject of much debate. How far back in time should the picture be taken? Should it be a single point in time or an average over a longer time period? Was climate different then than now? The description of historic vegetation presented here is based on a combination of information from Leiberg's 1898 survey of the Bitterroot Forest Reserve (the Idaho portion of which is now the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests), and reports prepared for the Interior Columbia River Basin project. These are not the only sources of historic information, but are readily available and have been the most common source of historic data used on these two Forests to describe historic conditions for project analyses.

Leiberg described the non-forest vegetation in the Idaho portion of the Bitterroot Forest Reserve (now the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests) in his 1898 survey. His "grazing areas" were of three types, riparian meadows, temporary meadows that followed repeated forest fires, and the dry ponderosa pine/bunchgrass hillsides. Together, these three types covered over 100,000 acres on the Reserve. The Reserve boundary excluded much of the lower elevation forest and grassland on the west edge of the current Forest boundaries, particularly the Nez Perce Forest.

Leiberg also described a landscape that was profoundly influenced by fire over a long period, as he could see evidence that spanned the previous 200 years. He estimated that 30 to 50 percent of the Forest had been burned severely in the previous 30 to 40 years, much due to prospectors burning the Forest to make their search for valued minerals easier. His estimate was that about 11,000 acres burned annually in the Reserve before the arrival of white settlers in the area.

Forest species composition and structure were greatly influenced by widespread forest fires over the previous 200 or more years. Early seral forests were common. Species such as whitebark pine, aspen, and birch were more common. Snags were well represented across the entire landscape.

Losensky (1994) used climatic areas to summarize vegetation in his draft report for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. Climatic areas that correspond to the Clearwater are the St. Joe-Lochsa (Climatic Area 8) and Palouse (Climatic Area 3); and those for the Nez Perce are the Clearwater-Selway (Climatic Area 6) and Snake-Salmon-Clearwater (Climatic Area 4).

Table 10 – Historic Composition of National Forests by Climatic Area (% of Forest Area)

Climatic Area		Western white pine	Ponderosa pine	Larch / Douglas-fir	Douglas-fir	Lodgepole pine	Engelmann spruce	Grand fir	Western redcedar	Western redcedar/grand fir	Alpine and non-commercial forest	Grassland
Clearwater NF	**St. Joe-Lochsa**	28	14	11	4	7	1	1	T	<2	12	13
	Palouse	-	25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
Nez Perce NF	**Snake-Salmon-Clearwater**	-	35	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	53
	Clearwater-Selway	<3	14	5	16	21	4	4	<1	4	24	4

Source: Losensky, 1994. Clearwater-Selway and Snake-Salmon-Clearwater are mostly Nez Perce NF; St. Joe-Lochsa and Palouse are mostly the Clearwater NF.

Existing Conditions

Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) plots have recently been installed on these two Forests. FIA is a nationwide project that takes an inventory of forest conditions, and updates that inventory every ten years. The following tables summarize this information for these two Forests. Additional large tree information will be collected in the summer of 2004.

Table 11 – Clearwater National Forest, Current Size Class and Species Composition

Size Class	% of Clearwater NF Area	Species Composition (Plurality)
Non-forest	5	Grasslands, permanent shrub lands, rock, water
Non-stocked	7	Seral shrub and forb species
Small Trees (< 5”)	16	Spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, grand fir, lodgepole pine
Medium Trees (5” – 9”)	5	Lodgepole pine, spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir
Large Trees (> 9”)	67	Spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, grand fir, western redcedar, lodgepole pine

This information is from Clearwater Forest Inventory and Assessment data collected from 2000-2002. Additional data collection is planned in 2004.

Table 12 – Nez Perce National Forest, Current Size Class and Species Composition

Size Class	% of Nez Perce NF Area	Species Composition (Plurality)
Non-forest	6	Grasslands, permanent shrub lands, rock, water
Non-stocked	4	Seral shrub and forb species
Small Trees (< 5")	12	Douglas-fir, spruce/subalpine fir, grand fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine
Medium Trees (5" – 9")	8	Lodgepole pine, spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, grand fir
Large Trees (> 9")	69	Grand fir, spruce/subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, western redcedar

This information is from Nez Perce Forest Inventory and Assessment data collected from 2001-2002. Additional data collection is planned in 2004.

Table 13 – Existing Vegetation Composition by Forest (Percentage of Each Forest)

Forest	Western white pine	Ponderosa pine	Larch	Douglas-fir	Lodgepole pine	Grand fir	Western redcedar	Spruce/ Subalpine fir	Mountain Hemlock	Whitebark pine	Non-stocked	Non-forest
Clearwater	0	1	1	19	11	17	8	28	3	0	7	5
Nez Perce	0	9	0	20	14	21	3	23	0	0.2	4	6

This information is from Nez Perce Forest Inventory and Assessment data collected from 2001-2002 and the Clearwater FIA data collected from 2000-2002. Additional data collection is planned in 2004.

While the historic and current vegetation conditions are described from different sources, general changes in vegetation composition and structure can be seen, and include:

Loss of ponderosa pine, particularly the old forests. Tied to harvest and fire exclusion followed by stand-replacing wildfire. Ponderosa pine requires open growing conditions to reproduce.

Loss of old western redcedar stands. This loss is less acute on the national forests than on adjacent lands, and is primarily tied to harvest.

Loss of western larch. Tied to harvest and fire exclusion. Western larch requires open growing conditions to reproduce and remain dominant in a stand.

Loss of western white pine. Tied to white pine blister rust (an exotic disease), harvest, and fire exclusion. White pine requires moderately open to open growing conditions to reproduce and grow well.

Loss of whitebark pine. Tied to white pine blister rust (an exotic disease), and fire suppression. Whitebark pine requires open growing conditions to reproduce and grow well.

Loss of young forests. Tied to fire exclusion.

Loss of old forests. Tied to harvest and increased fire severity (see "loss of ponderosa pine" and "loss of western larch").

Lodgepole pine is mature across much of both forests. Mountain pine beetle activity is high, and this forest type is experiencing major changes in age class structure. Increased fire activity in this type is expected over the next 10 to 25 years.

In general, insect and disease activity in forest types is elevated above historic levels.

Historic and Existing Conditions – Soil Productivity

Much of the soil on both Forests is covered with a layer of volcanic ash that has contributed to good water holding capacity, high soil nutrient levels, and has provided a "blanket" that covered and held in place some of the more erosive materials beneath it. Periodic stand-replacing fires (such as in 1934) often led to soil loss before vegetation recovered (USDA Forest Service, 1983).

Some past management practices, many from before the Forest Plans were implemented, have reduced soil productivity in places. Soil compaction, related to use of ground-based skidding equipment during harvest and mechanical fuels treatment after harvest, also contributes to lowered productivity. Severe fire activity, whether management-ignited or natural, has resulted in hydrophobic soils and soil loss.

Historic and Existing Conditions – Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species on both forests were chosen primarily because they were species of interest. Some were threatened species (bald eagle, gray wolf, grizzly bear, peregrine falcon), others were important hunted species (elk, moose, white tailed deer), or they were species that used special habitats (pileated woodpecker, goshawk, pine marten, fisher, belted kingfisher).

Monitoring Reports from the two Forests indicate that MIS species should be de-emphasized. Species complexes, or groups that exhibit common (within group) thematic requirements but are diverse and complementary (between groups) in overall habitat needs, would better reflect a landscape perspective on wildlife habitat.

Historic and Existing Conditions - Timber Production

Clearwater NF: The Clearwater Forest Plan projected a total maximum timber sell volume of 173 million board feet (MMBF) annually from suitable lands. One hundred MMBF of this volume was to come from roaded lands, the remaining 73 MMBF were to come from unroaded lands designated as "suitable" in the Plan. Those potential harvest levels have never been realized. By 2001, volume sold had declined to 20 MMBF, all from roaded lands.

Nez Perce NF: The Nez Perce Forest Plan projected a total maximum timber sell volume of 108 MMBF annually for the first decade. This was to rise to 138 MMBF annually in the second decade. Volume offered for sale has declined since the early 1990s, and in 2001, only 9.5 MMBF were sold.

Since the Forest Plans were signed in 1987, over 20,000 acres of land in the suitable timber base on the Clearwater Forest have burned in wildfires. On the Nez Perce Forest, that figure is over 49,000 acres.

Current Forest Plan Direction

For the Clearwater National Forest, this direction can be summarized:

Forest Vegetation

Forest vegetation direction is focused on production of timber products. It emphasizes a cost-efficient, sustained yield of timber, to help support the local economic structure. The Allowable Sale Quantity is 173 MMBF annually, part from the roaded and part from the unroaded portions of the Forest. Silvicultural systems benefit long-term timber production, with modifications to meet other resource direction. Management techniques and practices are designed to prevent pest outbreaks from occurring whenever possible. Even-aged management is emphasized, with direction for size, dispersal, and duration of openings.

Direction for establishment of Research Natural Areas is also included.

Soils/Productivity

Soil productivity is maintained without irreversible damage from management activities. Direction to complete backlog soil restoration projects by 2000 is included.

Grazing

Livestock grazing is managed consistent with protecting and managing other resources. Noxious weeds are controlled if their presence may conflict with range resources or become detrimental to other resources.

Wildlife

Wildlife management is focused on big game habitat management, specifically, it addressed summer and winter habitat, security (motorized use), rehabilitation of key winter range, and elk population goals.

In addition, all indigenous wildlife species are to be provided for. Provide for old-growth-dependent species by maintaining at least 10% of the forest in old-growth habitat, with at least 5% of each 10,000-acre watershed managed as old growth.

Under the Nez Perce National Forest Plan:

Forest Vegetation

A sustained yield of resource outputs is provided at a level that will help support the economic structure of local communities and is provided for regional and national needs. The Plan requires silvicultural examination and prescription before any vegetative manipulation on forested lands. Clearcutting and shelterwood harvest are considered the primary harvest methods. Actions to reduce timber losses due to insect and disease will be implemented. Control actions will generally aim to reduce the risk of infestations. Integrated pest management is practiced. Firewood is provided for personal use.

Wildlife

Habitat diversity and quality is provided to support viable populations of native and desirable non-native wildlife species. Habitat to contribute to the recovery of Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species is also provided, including habitat to ensure the viability of those species identified as "sensitive." The intrinsic ecological and economic value of wildlife and wildlife habitats are recognized and promoted. High quality and quantity of wildlife habitat is provided to ensure diversified recreational use and public satisfaction. An average of 5,000 acres of elk winter range are treated by prescribed fire annually to maintain a winter range carrying capacity of about 23,000 animals by 1997. Pacific yew communities are managed for moose winter range.

Old growth is provided on 10% of the forest. Minimum viable populations of old-growth and snag-dependent species are provided by management.

Cooperates in recovery of the gray wolf and peregrine falcon. Monitors grizzly bear recovery in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Protection

Protects resource values through cost-effective fire and fuels management. Plans, implements, and maintains a fire management program.

Soils/Productivity

Maintains soil productivity and minimizes any irreversible impacts to the soil resource through application of best-management practices and soil resource improvement projects. Evaluates the potential for soil displacement, compaction, puddling, mass wasting, and surface soil erosion for all ground-disturbing activities. A minimum of 80% of an activity area is not detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities.

Grazing

Livestock grazing on timber harvest units is coordinated as necessary to provide for tree regeneration. Maintaining or developing intensive grazing systems minimizes adverse impacts on riparian areas. Grazing increases, due to increased harvest.

What Needs to Change?

Fire Risk and Fire Management Direction

The risk of wildfire on the two Forests needs to be lessened through vegetation management and fuels management. Both Forests need the flexibility to make more extensive use of fire for resource benefits. Fire use plans need to be expanded to allow more use of fire and at the same time reducing firefighting costs and firefighter risk.

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery and Sensitive Species Management:

Recognize the range of natural habitat variability, and provide management flexibility to address short and long term species recovery objectives.

Soil Productivity:

Direction to maintain soil productivity needs to be revised to address monitoring findings. Soil restoration needs to be integrated into the management direction.

Composition and Structure:

The Forests need to develop a plan to restore vegetation composition and structure to resilient, sustainable conditions. This needs to be fully integrated with objectives for all resources on the forests.

Management Indicator Species:

Current management indicator species have not been very good indicators of management effects. The Forests need to choose species, species groups, or complexes that will be better indicators of desired forest conditions.

Timber Production and Allowable Sale Quantity:

Silvicultural prescriptions and yield tables need to reflect the range of forest composition and structure that would result from ecosystem management that fully integrates objectives for all appropriate resources.

Monitoring Plan:

Revise the Monitoring Plan to measure success in meeting objectives.

4. Noxious Weed Management

Introduction

Noxious weeds are non-native (exotic) plants that do not have their origin in a local area. Noxious weeds are spreading rapidly throughout the Upper Columbia River Basin, which includes the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (ICBEMP, 1997). They are a very significant problem in the State of Montana and in central and southern Idaho. Large areas of grasslands on the Nez Perce NF are susceptible to weed invasion. In some areas noxious weeds are replacing native plant species. Noxious weed infestations can substantially change the biological diversity of an area by affecting the amount and distribution of native plants and animals. They can also have negative impacts on tribal gathering opportunities, recreation opportunities, wildlife and livestock forage, soil productivity, fire cycles, nitrogen cycling, riparian and hydrologic function and water quality.

Why Is This A Revision Topic?

There is need to modify current management direction to adequately address noxious weeds and their effects on forest ecosystems in order to: (1) address tribal resources and cultural needs in relation to FS trust responsibilities, and (2) provide for the public's ability to utilize and enjoy the National Forests. Noxious weeds have greatly increased from historical levels and they have contributed to changes in vegetation composition, structure, and fire regimes. For example, biological diversity has changed in the Salmon and Selway River canyons as a result of noxious weed infestations and resultant loss of native grasslands.

Primary concerns are related to:

1. effectively preventing and managing sources of noxious weed spread and establishment,
2. the need to coordinate weed management across jurisdictional boundaries and adjacent lands, and
3. the ability to implement an integrated weed management program over the long-term based upon budgets, management direction, priorities, and integration with other resource management programs.

Summary of Management Concerns

Table 14 – Summary of Management Concerns Regarding Noxious Weeds

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
Weed Invasion Direction	Incomplete objectives and standards	Spread of noxious weeds has greatly accelerated
Cooperative Weed Management Direction	Some direction for cooperatively managing weeds exists but developing strategy has not been incorporated in the forest plans.	Cooperative weed management areas now exist National direction to manage noxious weeds has been issued Funding levels for weed management areas have increased significantly
Integrated Weed Management Program	Incomplete direction for establishing integrated weed management programs	Prevention, education, control and restoration programs exist and are growing
Loss of Native Non-forest Species	Incomplete objectives and standards	Grasslands, primarily composed of bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue, have declined due to weed invasion. Some invasion of these grasslands by conifers has reduced their extent.

Historic and Existing Conditions

Noxious weeds are those plant species that have been designated by federal, state, or county officials as "undesirable vegetation." The Idaho Noxious Weed Law defines a noxious weed as any exotic plant species that is established or that may be introduced in the State, which may render land unsuitable for agriculture, forestry, livestock, wildlife or other beneficial use and is further designated as either a statewide or countywide noxious weed. These species are generally new or not common to the United States (USDA Forest Service, Southwest Idaho Ecogroup, FEIS, Vol. 3, 2003). Noxious weeds are spreading on lands on both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. Roads, trails, and areas disturbed by fire or vegetation management have been identified as primary avenues for plant and seed transport and establishment of new colonies.

Noxious weeds have spread rapidly across the grassland habitats (primarily bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue) on the Nez Perce NF. Both Forests have experienced weed invasion, particularly after disturbances, such as fire or activities that clear vegetation.

This rapid rate of weed expansion is partly due to the lack of natural control agents in new environments, prolific seed production, physiological advantages over other native plants, and a strong ability to establish in various vegetative successional stages and communities (USDA Forest Service, Southwest Idaho Ecogroup, FEIS, Vol. 3). Some landscapes are more susceptible to invasion than others due to the productivity of the sites and the similarity of environmental conditions from where the plant originated. The degree of susceptibility of a location can affect the rate of spread and the extent or size of the infestation.

Resource and range management specialists on both Forests have expressed concerns about the continuing spread of noxious weeds. Expansion in some areas is out-pacing containment and control efforts. New infestations along roads and trails, both on national forest system lands and on adjacent State private lands, are occurring. Tribes have both historic and current interests. The management of noxious weeds has significant implications to their cultural and resource values and needs.

There are two primary landscape components that influence the spread of noxious weeds. They are: (1) the *susceptibility* of an area to weed colonization, and (2) the *risk of* weed expansion. All plant communities are capable of being invaded or colonized but vary in their susceptibility to noxious weeds. Noxious weeds may disperse and occupy areas within existing plant communities where sunlight, space, water, and nutrient requirements can be met. Noxious weeds can be expected to invade those sites or habitats that provide the necessary requirements to meet their life cycle. Habitats or areas that lack the necessary resources for a given weed species are not considered susceptible to colonization. Risk is determined for the most part by habitat susceptibility, seed availability, seed or propagule dispersal potential, and habitat disturbance.

The largest threat to the Nez Perce NF based on susceptible habitat, risk of spread, existing infestations, and difficulty to control, comes from rush skeletonweed, orange and meadow hawkweed. Based on acres treated and acres infested, spotted knapweed is the most common noxious weed on the Nez Perce NF. The top priority of weed management is new invaders, which would include orange hawkweed, meadow hawkweed, tansy ragwort, Dalmatian toadflax, dyer's woad, Japanese knotweed, and diffuse knapweed.

Native plants species on the Clearwater NF are not currently being significantly replaced by noxious weeds. Spread primarily occurs along roads and trails and there is the potential for increases where existing vegetation is removed by fire or other disturbances.

Tables 15 and 16 display estimated acres at risk and susceptible to invasion by exotic weeds. The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Serviced, developed the information. The purpose of the evaluation was not to focus on specific resource values at risk; rather it was to evaluate risk to the overall integrity of native plant communities. The acre totals shown are the result of modeling and do not reflect exact inventory totals. Acre values do not include those categorized as unknown or no risk.

Table 15 – Acres of Clearwater NF National Forest System Lands Susceptible to Infestations and at Risk from Noxious Weeds

Species	Risk				Susceptible
	Low	Moderate	High	Total	
Hoary Cress	12,734			12,734	1,530
Diffuse Knapweed	6		34,411	34,417	34,417
Yellow Starthistle	6,513	782	16,475	23,770	23.770
Rush Skeletonweed	590,285		6,210	596,495	599,613
Canadian Thistle	690,705		1,622	692,327	692,327
Leafy Spurge	393,770	819	30,016	424,605	424,625
Orange Hawkweed	17,376		574,248	591,624	688,412
Dyers Weed		791	22,152	22943	23,031
Dalmatian Toadflax	411,542		17,307	428,849	428,849
Yellow Toadflax	688,019		4,639	692,658	692,245

Source: Mantas, 2003.

Table 16 – Acres of Nez Perce National Forest System Lands Susceptible to Infestations and at Risk from Noxious Weeds

Species	Risk				Susceptible
	Low	Moderate	High	Total	
Hoary Cress	53,693		26	53,719	53,719
Diffuse Knapweed			164,824	164,824	164,824
Yellow Starthistle	28,807	64	66,762	95,634	95,634
Rush Skeletonweed	603,438		45,232	648,670	671,388
Canadian Thistle	642,505		1,759	644,264	644,264
Leafy Spurge	389,740		106,284	496,024	496,024
Orange Hawkweed	98,500		523,326	621,826	627,252
Dyers Weed		66	99,687	99,753	100,013
Dalmatian Toadflax	448,506		69,461	517,967	517,967
Yellow Toadflax	608,891	61	99,359	696,311	698,070

Source: Mantas, 2003.

The list of noxious weeds in Table 17 is NOT a repeat of the information displayed in Tables 15 and 16. It lists noxious weeds designated by the State of Idaho known to occur on each national forest.

Table 17 – Noxious Weeds Found on the Nez Perce and Clearwater NFs

Noxious Weed	Clearwater NF	Nez Perce NF
Spotted Knapweed	X	X
Meadow Hawkweed	X	X
Yellow Toadflax	X	
Dalmatian Toadflax	X	X
Yellow Starthistle	X	X
Tansy Ragwort	X	X
Sulfur Cinquefoil	X	X
Orange Hawkweed	X	X
Canada Thistle	X	X
Scotch Thistle	X	
Leafy Spurge	X	X
Hoary Cress	X	
Rush Skeletonweed	X	X
Diffuse Knapweed	X	X
Japanese Knotweed		X
Dyer's Woad	X	

The State of Idaho is responsible for overseeing and directing noxious weed management. County weed control boards have been established to control weeds along county roads, provide information and education to residents and other agencies, and provide training and technical assistance to managers of private lands. The Clearwater River Basin Weed Coordinating Committee, with members from the Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Clearwater National Forest, local counties and other agencies, is set up to develop consistent management objectives to deal with noxious weeds.

Current Forest Plan Direction

Current Forest Plan direction is very limited and primarily focuses on treatment of weed infestations with limited discussion of prevention. Objectives and standards deal with control but have not been integrated with other resource functions to provide a desired future condition that addresses vegetation, wildlife, and human uses.

The direction in 1987 Plans focuses on the treatment of noxious weed infestations rather than prevention, containment, public education, and control of weeds. Brief general statements about cooperating with other agencies and landowners are provided. While an Integrated Weed Management approach exists as national Forest Service direction, it is not addressed in the current Forest Plans. Direction to improve the level of cooperation with adjacent landowners and sustain cooperative weed management programs is not provided.

Current management direction will continue to emphasize containing and controlling new or established weed populations. The current spread of noxious weeds would be expected to continue. Spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, and leafy spurge would become more prevalent on the landscape with increasing impacts on agriculture, wildlife management, forest resources and recreation opportunities.

What Needs To Change?

Weed Invasion Direction

There is need to modify current management direction to adequately address noxious weeds and their effects on ecosystem structure, composition, function and their effects on commercial and non-commercial use of forest resources.

There is a need to establish a containment and control strategy for the firmly established populations that have infested large areas on both Forests. This strategy needs to consider jurisdictional boundaries, different land management objectives, and the need to provide direction that is integrated with other resource functions. Plans need to address the role of fire on landscapes and its potential to aid in the spread of noxious.

Cooperative Weed Management Direction

Expanded direction is needed to strengthen efforts to cooperatively manage noxious weeds with adjacent landowners and other federal, state, and county agencies. Emphasis is needed on funding and technical assistance.

Integrated Weed Management Program (IWM)

Direction to use IWM strategies to address prevention, education, and control and restoration programs needs to be established to clarify how to deal with these different IWM components.

Loss of Native Non-Forest Species

Restoration programs need to be established that will aid in returning non-forest lands to a resilient condition that will support native wildlife and historic disturbance regimes.

Monitoring Plan

Revise the Monitoring Plan to measure success in meeting objectives.

5. Special Designations and Areas

Introduction

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests contain many special areas that were created by acts of Congress and administrative decisions by the Forest Service. This discussion will address several types of special areas with the primary focus being on inventoried roadless areas and recommended wilderness and Wild and Scenic River recommendations. Existing designated areas, such as the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness or the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, are established and managed by area-specific plans. Forest Plan revision will not address project level changes to existing management plans for individual designated special areas.

Why is This A Revision Topic?

The public is very interested in the designation of special areas because, upon allocation, specific management direction is required that often precludes certain activities, such as road construction, timber harvest or motorized vehicles. Tribal governments are interested in areas with historic and cultural significance. There is an ongoing national controversy about the management of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) and designating areas as units in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Similarly, Forest Service recommendations for additions to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System generate intense local, regional and national interest.

A significant portion of both Forests has been inventoried as roadless areas and need to be evaluated for potential recommendation as designated wilderness. There are hundreds of miles of rivers and streams that need to be evaluated following Forest Service manual direction to determine which ones are eventually recommended to be part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The 1987 Plans provided direction to build roads and harvest timber in certain IRAs. This direction has proven to be very controversial and the amount of timber harvest and road construction that was projected in the Forest Plans has not occurred. Of the 1,490,000 acres of inventoried roadless area in the planning zone, approximately 922,000 acres were allocated in 1987 as “suitable” lands, open for road construction and timber harvest. Controversy usually erupts with any proposal to harvest timber, build roads or otherwise develop IRAs.

Development activities in existing or proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers also generate intense public interest. Establishment of Research Natural Areas (RNAs) and management of the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark also needed to be reviewed and management direction updated as appropriate.

Table 18 - Summary of Management Concerns Regarding Special Designations and Areas

Management Concerns	Status of Forest Plan Direction	What's Changed?
IRAs to Recommend for Wilderness	Currently 6 IRAs (198,000 acres) are recommended for wilderness on the Clear-water NF. No areas or acres were recommended on the Nez Perce NF.	IRA inventory needs updated. Re-evaluate public interest regarding areas to be recommended for wilderness.
Interim Management Direction for Recommended Wilderness	Conflicting direction exists between Forests for the same recommended wilderness areas.	Agency and public want clear and consistent management direction.
Direction for Roadless Areas Not Recommended as Wilderness	Some IRAs protected and some allocated to road construction/timber harvest.	National policy is to maintain the character of roadless areas. Direction is needed to address appropriate uses.
Recommended Additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.	7 rivers on the Clearwater NF and 13 rivers on the Nez Perce NF were recommended.	National direction is to inventory and evaluate potential Wild and Scenic rivers. Recreation use on existing rivers is increasing. Recovery of threatened and endangered fish species may be enhanced by inclusion in Wild and Scenic rivers system.
Areas to Recommend as RNAs.	9 areas recommended on the Clearwater NF and 8 areas recommended on the Nez Perce NF.	Better understanding of ecosystems may create need for more or expanded RNAs.

Historic and Existing Conditions

Designation of special areas can occur through laws passed by Congress or by administrative decisions by the Forest Service. Historically, the primary decisions in the Forest Service have been related to recommending wilderness areas and Wild and Scenic rivers. Additional areas (e.g. Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Historic Trails, or National Recreation Areas) have also been designated in response to public demand to protect important resources and provide recreation opportunities.

After the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964 there has been a great deal of interest and controversy associated with identifying and recommending areas for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System to Congress. Inventoried roadless areas have been the main focus for possible additions. Also, management options for roadless areas not recommended for wilderness designation has become a significant issue. There are currently 1,126,000 acres of designated wilderness in the Clear/Nez planning zone.

According to the 1987 Forest Plan roadless area inventory, there are 16 IRAs totaling 988,000 acres on the Clearwater NF and 16 IRAs totaling 502,000 acres on the Nez Perce NF. Land exchanges, timber harvest, and road construction have caused a change in the total acres of roadless areas The Forests will update the roadless areas maps to be used in the analysis for coming up with inventoried roadless areas recommended for wilderness in the revised Forest Plans.

Through the revision process the Forests will review and consider wilderness recommendations made in the 1987 Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plans. These are listed below with the acreages from the 1987 inventory.

Table 19 – IRAs Recommended for Wilderness by 1987 Clearwater NF Plan

IRA Name	Acres
Mallard Larkins	66,700
Hoodoo (Great Burn)	113,000
Sneakfoot Meadows	8,700
Elk Summit (Powell Ranger District)	3,300
Storm Creek (Powell Ranger District)	2,500
Lakes (Powell Ranger District)	4,000
TOTAL	198,200

Table 20 – IRAs Recommended for Wilderness by 1987 Nez Perce NF Plan

Nez Perce NF 1987 Forest Plan Recommended Wilderness	Acres
No Areas Recommended	0 acres

In the 1987 Forest Plans specific rivers were identified and recommended for addition to the Wild and Scenic rivers system. A re-inventory of potential rivers and streams on both Forests will be completed to determine if additional water bodies are eligible and if the original recommendations should be carried forward into the revised Plans. A final proposal will be developed through the revision process. Recommended additions for both forests follow.

Table 21 – Wild and Scenic River Additions Recommended by 1987 Clearwater NF Plan

River	Miles of Stream	Potential Classification of Miles of Stream
Kelly Creek	24	12 Wild and 12 Recreation
Cayuse	28	Scenic
North Fk of Clearwater River	60	Recreation
Little North Fork Clearwater	4	Based on IPNF*
Fish Creek	5	Recreation
Hungery Creek	12	Wild
Colt Killed Creek (White Sands)	12	Recreation
Total	145	

*Potential classification will be based on revised Idaho Panhandle National Forest Plan

Table 22 – Wild and Scenic River Additions Recommended by 1987 Nez Perce NF Plan

River	Miles of Stream	Potential Classification Of Miles of Stream
Bargamin Creek	21	6 Scenic and 15 Wild
Bear Creek Complex	65	65 Wild
Johns Creek	19	19 Wild
Lake Creek	14	4 Recreation and 10 Wild
Meadow Creek	35	1 Recreation and 34 Wild
Moose Creek Complex	75	75 Wild
Running Creek	15	8 Scenic and 7 Wild
Salmon River	25	25 Recreation
Slate Creek	19	14 Recreation and 5 Wild
South Fork Clearwater River	60	60 Recreation
White Bird Creek	6	6 Recreation
Three Links Complex	18	18 Wild
West Fork Gedney Creek	4	4 Wild
Total	376	

Each plan developed a list of proposed Research Natural Areas (RNAs). These require an establishment report and decision by the Chief of the Forest Service to become officially "designated." The recommendations from the 1987 Plan are shown below.

Table 23 – Research Natural Areas Recommended by 1987 Forest Plans

Clearwater NF 1987 Forest Plan Existing RNAs	Clearwater NF 1987 Forest Plan Recommended RNAs
1	9
Nez Perce NF 1987 Forest Plan Existing RNAs	**Nez Perce NF 1987 Forest Plan Recommended RNAs**
2	8

The Nez Perce Forest has done establishment reports for the eight recommended RNAs, and they have been officially established. The Clearwater Forest has a total of ten designated RNAs with two more in the application process.

What Happens Under Current Forest Plan Direction?

Direction in the 1987 Plans included wilderness recommendations and guidance to manage some of the IRAs for resources other than wilderness or as roadless areas. The projected amounts of timber harvest and road construction from these areas has not occurred. Through the planning process the Forests will recommend management options for all IRAs depending on existing national direction. Currently, the agency is unable to implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule due to unresolved legal issues. The Forest Service has established interim guidance for the management of IRAs to ensure they are protected until current legal issues are resolved and national guidance is finalized.

The 1987 Forest Plans made recommendations for additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and for additional RNAs. Continuing under the 1987 Forest Plan direction will not change these recommendations. New resource information and public needs would not be addressed.

What Needs to Change?

Review IRAs Recommended for Wilderness

The IRAs recommended for designation as wilderness by Congress need to be reviewed. Additions or deletions to the list of recommended areas need to be analyzed and presented to the public for comment.

Interim Management Direction for Recommended Wilderness

Management direction for areas recommended for wilderness is not consistent for the same areas between adjacent forests. Consistent direction is needed to reflect current policy and provide for similar management for the same areas.

Update Direction for Roadless Areas Not Recommended as Wilderness

Continuing to implement the 1987 Forest Plan direction is not feasible since it does not reflect current national policy for the management of IRAs and needs to be revised. Some of the key areas needing clarification are where road construction and timber harvests are or are not allowed; where motorized recreation is allowed and how prescribed and wildland fires will be managed.

Recommend Additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System

A review of potential eligible rivers and streams for recommendation to be included in the Wild & Scenic Rivers System is needed to ensure that all potential waters get evaluated.

Recommend Areas as RNAs

A review of established, recommended, and potential RNAs is needed so that new information and management concerns are addressed.

Revise Monitoring Plan

Revise the Monitoring Plan to measure success in meeting objectives.

Modify Current Management Direction Topics

Modified management direction means adjusting the direction for the topics listed below where a need for change was identified but the solutions are straightforward and not controversial. These topics will not change by alternatives and will not initiate creation of alternatives.

Heritage Resources

Heritage resources include the tangible remains of past human cultures as well existing sites and areas still in use. In order to understand and evaluate the importance of these historic resources, factors such as oral tradition, ethno-history, ethnography, and current uses need to be understood.
Modifying management direction through the revision process may mean new resource definitions, such as cultural landscapes or traditional cultural properties are incorporated in the revised Forest Plans. Desired future conditions, goals, objectives and standards will be reviewed and modified as needed.

Land and Special Uses

The current Forest Plans include general goals for land ownership adjustment to consolidate lands and provide for better management of Forest resources. These goals are pursued as budget and opportunity allow. Existing direction will be reviewed and adjusted as needed.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests receive numerous special use permit applications each year from individuals, corporations, and other organizations interested in conducting activities on the forests. Examples include outfitting and guiding, road use, special events, and electronic and wireless communication sites. Existing direction will reviewed and adjusted as needed.

Scenery Management

The existing Forest Plans include forestwide standards for scenery management that were developed under the 1974 Visual Management System. This system relied on "natural conditions" as the reference point for establishing visual management objectives and direction. In 1995 the Forest Service adopted the Scenery Management System (SMS). This system provides a framework for the systematic inventory, analysis and management of scenery resources. It provides for incorporation of natural and human-initiated disturbance across forest landscapes. The existing Forest Plans need to be reviewed and updated to incorporate the management strategy of the Scenery Management System.

Air Quality

The 1990 and 1999 amendments to the Clean Air Act and the formation of the Montana/Idaho State Airshed Group have changed forest management practices. Decisions regarding wildland fire use are made within the guidelines of the Airshed Group Operating Plan. Forest Plan direction needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect the strategic intent of the Airshed Group Operating Plan.

Minerals

The existing Forest Plan direction will be reviewed and modified as needed to improve direction related to mining laws and public need for mineral resources. Improved direction could provide for management of discretionary and non-discretionary mineral activities. It may also address the relationship between areas with mineral potential and uses and surface resources of concern where there is existing or potential conflict.

Soils

Soil management has evolved since the Plans were signed in 1987. Amendments were made to the Forest Service Manual and Handbook in 2001 regarding soil management. A larger body of soil research is now available and includes information on soil features that were not well understood in the past, such as soil biota and the value of coarse woody debris to long-term soil productivity. Forest plan direction needs to reflect this new body of knowledge and new manual and handbook direction.

CHAPTER 3 - WHAT'S NEXT?

This AMS summarizes the work accomplished to date in identifying the need for change to the existing Forest Plans. The next step is to use this information and input from the public to develop a Proposed Action to initiate the formal NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process for Forest Plan revision in 2004. At that time a Notice of Intent to revise the plans for both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will be published in the Federal Register and the formal public input (scoping) process will start. (The Clearwater National Forest published a Notice of Intent to revise its Forest Plan in March 8, 1995, as part of a lawsuit settlement. A revised Notice, in conjunction with the Nez Perce National Forest, will be issued to initiate this revision project.)

Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)

This document defines the current situation and identifies issues to be addressed during revision. It is based on inventory and monitoring data as well as information provided by the public and others in response to the 1987 Plans during the development of large-scale assessments and projects. It is a dynamic document and will remain in draft form until the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Final Forest Plans, and Records of Decision are issued.

In addition, a contractor is currently writing a scientific Social Assessment that will include information and ideas about current forest management on the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests. This report - based upon interviews with individuals, group leaders, elected officials, agency employees, and Tribes - will provide additional information to be considered in the AMS, and every phase of the revision process, as well as the public participation strategy.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

A Notice of Intent (NOI) formally initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. A NOI initiating Forest Plan revision will be published in the Federal Register. The NOI will describe the Proposed Action, preliminary revision topics and issues, dates for filing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), information regarding public participation opportunities, and names and addresses of responsible agency officials. This will be posted on the Forest Plan revision website www.fs.fed.us/cnpz. A summary will be mailed to individuals who prefer to receive information via traditional mail.

The Proposed Action will outline land management strategies to address the needs for change discussed in the AMS. Updated or new direction will be proposed. This new direction includes the proposed desired future conditions and management goals that respond to the needs for change.

Direction identified as adequate in the existing Forest Plans will be retained and displayed in the Draft Plans. Draft objectives and standards will also be presented in Draft Forest Plans.

Tribal Involvement and Consultation

The Clearwater-Nez Perce Forest Plan revision project will be planned and implemented in ways that respect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. The Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes are recognized as sovereign nations. They will be involved early and often so tribal culture, resources, needs, interests, and expectations can be incorporated into the revision process. Formal consultation procedures will be followed. A detailed plan for working with tribal governments, specialists, and members will be included in the forests' public participation strategy.

Public Involvement and Intergovernmental Coordination

Overview

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests recognize these are the "people's lands" and the public should be actively involved in their planning and management. The Forests intend to provide many opportunities for coordination and collaboration during the revision process. These will be documented in a public participation strategy for Forest Plan revision. The Forests share the goal of obtaining thoughtful, substantive comment throughout the revision process from people, interest groups, elected officials, agencies, and Tribes.

Coordination with local, county, state, and federal partners is very important throughout each step of the Plan revision process. A public participation plan will be developed that ensures ongoing involvement by these entities.

Scoping

The first formal opportunity for public comment is during the scoping process. Scoping will begin around September 1, 2004, and will formally end in 90 days, though **comments are welcome any time during the revision process**. During the scoping period, the public is invited to review and provide comments about preliminary issues that were identified in the NOI. These will also be posted on the website and mailed to individuals on the agency's mailing list. During this phase, forest plan revision personnel will also be available to talk to interested individuals and to make formal presentations to groups, elected officials, agencies, and Tribes.

At the end of the scoping period, all comments will be read and issues will be identified and analyzed. This process is called content analysis. A report will then be generated that summarizes public issues and concerns, by issue or topic area, that will be considered in the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed revised Forest Plans.

It is important to note the comment process and content analysis are **not** voting processes.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Forest Plans

The 1982 planning regulations require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when a plan is revised. The EIS must comply with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, and display information used in making the decision. Through the planning effort the team will develop one DEIS that will cover both the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests and two revised Forest Plans, one for each Forest.

The second formal and significant opportunity for public participation will occur after the DEIS is completed. Following the release of the DEIS there will be a 90-day public review and comment period. During this time, Forest personnel will meet with interested individuals, groups, agencies, and governments to help potential commenters understand the contents of the DEIS and provide written comments.

The agency will specifically seek comments regarding the treatment of issues and concerns raised during scoping, the adequacy of the DEIS, and the merits of alternatives presented. Comments regarding the DEIS should be as specific as possible, citing exact chapters, pages, and/or paragraphs in the DEIS. A discussion of the rationale for suggestions will also be helpful to decision makers.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Revised Forest Plans

At the conclusion of the comment period for the DEIS, there will be another content analysis effort. Information and ideas submitted during the formal comment period will be used to modify the DEIS, resulting in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Documents that will be produced during this phase include:

One FEIS that will cover both national forests

Two Records of Decision (ROD), one for each Forest

Two revised Forest Plans, one for each Forest

The public and other planning participants will be notified when the FEIS is completed and available. This will end the formal public participation effort for Forest Plan revision; however, there will certainly be many opportunities for involvement in site-specific projects implementing the resulting Forest Plan direction. It is also likely there will be opportunities to participate in monitoring activities as forest management projects are implemented.

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CHAPTER 5 – GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Appropriate Management Response – Specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives.

Aquatic Species Organisms growing in, living in, or frequenting water

Best Management Practices -- Management practices (such as nutrient management) or structural practices (such as terraces) designed to reduce the quantities of pollutants-- such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and animal wastes -- that are washed by rain and snow melt from forest, roads, and farms into nearby receiving waters, such as lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, estuaries, and ground water.

Collaboration –working together in a cooperative manner.

Composition – The component tree, shrub, grass and forb classes in a stand or community.

Connectivity - The arrangements of habitats that allows organisms and ecological processes to move across the landscape; patches of similar habitats are either close together or linked by corridors of approved vegetation. The opposite of fragmentation.

Desired Future Condition - A portrayal of the land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

Developed Recreation - Outdoor recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are ski areas, resorts, and campgrounds.

Dispersed Recreation – Outdoor recreation in which visitors are distributed over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of the people.

Disturbance - Any relatively discrete event, either natural or human-induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

Diversity -- The number of different items and their relative frequencies. For biological diversity, describes attributes of species richness, genetic variation, and complexity within an ecosystem.

Ecosystem - An ecosystem is an interacting system of living organisms and their environment.

Ecosystem Management: This is a management practice and philosophy aimed at selecting, maintaining, and/or enhancing the ecological integrity of an ecosystem in order to ensure continued ecosystem health while providing resources, products, or non-consumptive values for humans. An integral part of ecosystem management is the maintenance of ecologically significant structure and processes within the ecosystem. The actions taken reflect the management goals and range from protection from human influence through to an increasing intensity of management actions to serve human needs.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – EISs are authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Prepared with public participation, they assist decision makers by providing information, analysis and an array of action alternatives, allowing managers to see the probable effects of decisions on the environment. Generally, EISs are written for large-scale actions or geographical areas.

Endangered Species - a plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act that is danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

Environmental Assessment (EA) - EAs were authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. They are concise, analytical documents prepared with public participation that determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a project or action. If an EA determines as EIS is not needed, the EA becomes the document allowing agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

Fire Exclusion - The disruption of a characteristic pattern of fire intensity and occurrence (primarily through fire suppression).

Fire Management Area (FMA) - A sub-geographic area within an FMU (Fire Management Unit) that represents a predefined ultimate acceptable management area for a fire managed for resource benefits. This predefined area can constitute a Maximum Manageable Area (MMA) and is useful for those units having light fuel types conducive to very rapid fire spread rates. Predefinition of these areas removes the time lag in defining an MMA after ignition and permits preplanning of the fire area; identification of threats to life, property, resources, and boundaries; and identification of initial actions.

Fire Management Plan (FMP) - A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires and documents the fire management program in the approved land use plan. This plan is supplemented by operational procedures such as preparedness, preplanned dispatch, burn plans, and prevention. The fire implementation schedule that documents the fire management program in the approved forest plan alternative.

Fire Management Unit (FMU) - Any land management area definable by objectives, topographic features, access, values-to-be-protected, political boundaries, fuel types, or major fire regimes, etc, that set it apart from management characteristics of an adjacent unit, FMUs are delineated in FMPs. These units may have dominant management objectives and preselected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

Fire Regime - The fire pattern across the landscape, characterized by occurrence interval and relative intensity. Fire regimes result from a unique combination of climate and vegetation. Fire regimes exist on a continuum from short-interval, low-intensity (stand maintenance) fires to long-interval, high-intensity (stand replacement) fires.

Fire Severity - The effects of fire on resources displayed in terms of benefit or loss.

Fire Suppression - The practice of controlling forest and rangeland fires in a safe, economical, and expedient fashion while meeting the natural resource objectives outlined in each forest's or grassland's land management plan.

Fire Use - the combination of wildland fire use and prescribed fire application to meet resource objectives.

Fire-Adapted Ecosystem – An ecosystem that is adapted and resilient to the effects of fire.

Forest Plan Direction - Allocation of areas to management prescriptions that consist of goals, objectives, standards and guidelines.

Forest Roads - As defined in Title 23, Section 101 of the United States Code (23 U.S.C. 101), any road wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System and which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. (FSM 7705)

Fuel Management - The practice of evaluating, planning, and executing the treatment of wildland fuel to control flammability and reduce the resistance to control through mechanical, chemical, biological, or manual means, or by wildland fire, in support of land management objectives.

Goal - A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and is timeless in that is has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the principal basis from which objectives are developed.

Guideline - Preferable or optional course of action.

Habitat -- A specific area in which a particular type of plant or animal lives.

Historic Range of Variability (HRV) - The variation in spatial, structural, compositional, and temporal characteristics of ecosystem elements as affected by minor climatic fluctuations and disturbances within the current climatic period. This range is measured during the current climatic period prior to intensive resource use and management. The range of historic variability is used as a baseline for comparison with current conditions to assess the degree of past change.

IDT - Interdisciplinary Team. A team representing several disciplines to ensure coordinating planning of the various resources.

Integrity – The capacity to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, and adaptive biological system having the full range of elements and processes expected in a region's natural habitat.

Intermittent Stream -- A watercourse that flows only at certain times of the year, conveying water from springs or surface sources; also, a watercourse that does not flow continuously, when water losses from evaporation or seepage exceed available stream flow.

Inventoried Roadless Areas – Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning. Those areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November, 2000, which are held at the National Headquarters of the Forest Service, or any update, correction, or revision of those maps."

INFISH -- Inland Native Fish Strategy. On July 31, 1995, the Decision Notice for Inland Native Fish Strategy Environmental Assessment (INFISH) was signed. This strategy was developed to provide interim direction to protect habitat and populations of native resident fish until longer-term conservation strategies such as the Upper Columbia River Basin and federal recovery plans replaced it. It is an amendment to the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Plans.

Landscape Ecology -- the study of the distribution patterns of **ecosystems**, the ecological processes that affect those patterns and changes in patterns and processes over time.

Management Area - An area with similar management objectives and a common management description.

Management Direction - A statement of multiple-use and other goals and objectives, the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining them. Attainment Report

Management indicator species -- An organism whose presence (or state of health) is used to identify a specific type of biotic community or changes occurring in the environment.

Management Prescription - Management practices and intensity (frequency and duration) selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives.

Monitoring -- to systematically and repeatedly measure conditions in order to track changes.

Monitoring and Evaluation (of forest plan implementation) - Determine how well the objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied. Can lead to recommendations for changes in management direction, amendments, or revisions to forest plans.

Municipal Water System -- a water system that has at least five service connections or which regularly serves 25 individuals for 60 days; also called a public water system

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - is the basic national law for protection of the environment, passed by Congress in 1969. It sets policy and procedures for environmental protection, and authorizes Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments to be used as analytical tools to help managers make decisions.

National Forest System Road - A classified forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The term "National Forest System roads" is synonymous with the term "forest development roads" as used in 23 U.S.C. 205. (FSM 7705)

Natural Ignition - A wildland fire ignited by a natural event such as lightning.

Nonnative Invasive Species - plant species that are introduced into an area in which they did not evolve, and in which they usually have few or no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread. These species can cause environmental harm by significantly changing the ecosystem composition, structure, or processes, and can cause economic harm or harm to human health.

Noxious Weeds - plant species designated as noxious weeds by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the responsible State official. These species are generally aggressive, difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host of serious insects or disease, and are nonnative, new, or uncommon to the United States.

Objective - A concise, time-specific statement of measurable, planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified goals.

Off-Highway Vehicles or Off-Road Vehicles - Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain; except that such term excludes (A) any registered motorboat, (B) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergency purposed, and (C) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the respective agency head under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

Old-Growth Forest

Perennial Stream -- A watercourse that flows throughout the year or most of the year (90%), in a well defined channel. Same as a live stream.

Phenotypic Diversity – The variation of visible characteristics of individual organisms within and between populations

Planned Ignition - A wildland fire purposely ignited to meet specific objectives.

Planning Area - The area of the National Forest System covered by a forest plan.

Prescribed Fire - Any fire purposely ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition. This term replaces management ignited prescribed fire.

Prescribed Fire Plan - A plan required for each fire ignited by managers. It must be prepared by qualified personnel and approved by the appropriate agency administrator prior to implementation. Each plan will follow specific agency direction and must include critical elements described in agency manuals.

Prescription - A set of measurable criteria that guides the selection of appropriate management strategies and actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social or legal considerations.

Public Involvement - The use of appropriate procedures to inform the public, obtain early and continuing public participation, and consider the views of interested parties in planning and decision-making.

Public Issue - A subject or question of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System.

RARE II Roadless area (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) - Roadless areas of NF System lands that were inventoried by the Forest Service in 1979.

Recreational Opportunities - The combination of recreation settings, activities and experiences provided by the forest.

Restricted Road - A National Forest Road or segment, which is restricted from a certain type of use of all uses during certain seasons of the year or yearlong. The use being restricted and the time period must be specified. The closure is legal when the Forest Supervisor has issued an Order and posted that Order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.

Riparian -- means water-related; is a wetland transition zone between upland habitats and streams, lakes, ponds, and marshes. Often referred to as a streamside areas, riparian zone, or riparian area. Lush vegetation along a stream is usually associated with a riparian area

Road - A motor vehicle travel way over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary (36 CFR 212.1).

a. Classified Roads. Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36 CFR 212.1).
*b. Temporary Road*s. Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation, not intended to be a part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management (36 CFR 212.1).
c. Unclassified Roads. Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travel ways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization.

Road Analysis - an integrated ecological, social, and economic science-based approach to transportation planning that addresses existing and future road management options.

Road Construction - activities that result in the addition of road miles to the forest transportation system.

Road Decommissioning - Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state

Road Maintenance - The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective

Salvage - an intermediate harvest made to remove trees that are dead or in imminent danger of being killed by injurious agents.

Scoping - activities in the early stages of preparation of an environmental analysis to assess public opinion, receive comments and suggestions, and determine issues during the environmental analysis process.

Sense of Place - the aesthetic, nostalgic, or spiritual effects of physical locations on humans based on personal, use-oriented or attached-oriented relationships between individuals and those locations. The meaning, values, and feelings that people associate with physical locations because of their experiences there.

Sensitive Species - those plant and animal species in which a population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density, or by significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Standard - Limitations on management activities that must be complied with.

Structure – The horizontal and vertical physical elements of forests and grasslands and the spatial interrelationships of ecosystems.

Subbasin -- A set of adjoining watersheds with similar ecological conditions and tributaries that ultimately connect, flowing into the same river or lake. Subbasins contain major tributaries to the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Subwatershed -- A defined land area within a watershed drained by a river, stream or drainage way, or system of connecting rivers, streams, or drainage ways such that all surface water within the area flows through a specific point. The subwatershed is typically 10,000 to 40,000 acres.

Suitability - The appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land, as determined by an analysis of the economic and environmental consequences and the alternative uses foregone. A unit of land may be suitable for a variety of individual or combined management practices.

Suppression - A management action intended to extinguish a fire or alter its direction of spread.

Sustainable - The ability to maintain a desired ecological condition or flow of benefits over time.

Sustainability – Satisfying present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Thinning - (a) The cutting down and/or removing of trees from a forest to meet a management objective. The objective is often fuels reduction, tree growth improvement, or wildlife habitat improvement.

Threatened Species - any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and which the appropriate Secretary has designated as a threatened species.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) - a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources.

Viability - the ability of a population of a plant or animal species to persist for some specified time into the future. Viable populations are populations that are regarded as having the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure that its continued existence is well distributed in a given area.

Water Quality--a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

Watershed --

AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
CLWNF	Clearwater National Forest
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis
FMA	Fire Management Area
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FMU	Fire Management Unit
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FVS	Forest Vegetation Simulator
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRV	Historic Range of Variability
ICBEMP	Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IRA	Inventoried Roadless Area
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LTSY	Long-Term Sustained Yield
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MA	Management Area
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MMBF	Million Board Feet
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFP	National Fire Plan
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPNF	Nez Perce National Forest
NRA	National Recreation Area
NSA	National Scenic Area
NWA	National Wilderness Area
NWPS	National Wilderness Preservation System
NWSR	National Wild and Scenic River
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
RAPs	Roads Analysis Process
RARE	Roadless Area Review and Evaluation
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RPA	Resources Planning Act
SIA	Special Interest Area
SMS	Scenery Management System
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TES	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VRU	Vegetation Response Units
WFSA	Wildland Fire Situation Analysis

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